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Hamas claims responsibility for bomb

HAMAS claimed responsibility for the bombing in announcements from Gaza mosques and telephone calls to the media.

During midday prayers in the Palestine Mosque, a voice over the loudspeaker system said, "We the Izzadin Kassam, the Marj a-Zahour group, take responsibility for the attack in Tel Aviv."

Marj a-Zahour was the camp in Lebanon to which more than 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters were deported for a year in December 1992.

A similar announcement was delivered by a masked youth in a mosque in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza, close to the home of Salih Jadallah, one of the slain kidnappers of Sgt. Nahshon Wachsmann.

Later, an official press release by Hamas in Gaza noted tersely that while youths representing Izzadin

Kassam had claimed responsibility for the bombing, "We completely deny that the attack was carried out from Gaza."

This was the first indication of a possible split between Hamas and its armed wing, perhaps designed to avoid re-arrests by Gaza police only two days after a protest march for the release of Hamas supporters following the Wachsmann kidnapping.

A Hamas source in Gaza said leading officials were refusing to comment because they were waiting for an official leaflet on the attack. Normally the "political" wing justifies the "military" wing, but this attack is likely to be more controversial than either last Sunday's attack in Jerusalem or the Wachsmann kidnapping.

Hamas political figures in Gaza, prominent during the Wachsmann tragedy and subsequent protest marches, were unreachable yesterday. The medical clinic of Hamas

JON IMMANUEL

spokesman Dr. Mahmoud Zahar was closed, and his wife said she did not know where he was.

In Amman, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh justified the attack, news agencies reported.

A Gaza journalist found one Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Bahar who refused to condemn the attack, but said, "Resistance against the occupation will continue until Palestinians receive their legitimate rights."

In the Hebron area, figures identified with Hamas condemned the attack. Sheikh Fathi Amre, head of the Islamic orientation department in the Waqf and one of the deportees, said: "It is totally unacceptable from the Islamic point of view."

In Tulkarm, the son of Sheikh Hamid Bitawi, considered one of the



Security forces are looking for Yihya Ayyash (shown), a suspected Hamas bomb-maker. (Khaled Zighan)

leading Hamas decision-makers, said: "It was no more right than the massacre in Hebron." Bitawi himself was not available.

Security forces were looking for Yihya Ayyash, a suspected Hamas bomb-maker from the Kalkiya area, they think may have constructed the bomb used yesterday. Ayyash has been wanted for two years in connection with May's Afula and Hadera bombings, and an attempted car bombing in Ramat Efal, near Tel Aviv, in November 1992, Israel Radio reported.

In his address to the nation last night, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin confirmed that a man thought responsible for all these bombings is being sought.

A claim of responsibility to Israel Radio thanked the Israeli government for enabling deportees to learn bomb-making in Lebanon, but Ayyash was not deported.

Arafat: Order for attack came from 'external sources'

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat condemned yesterday's Tel Aviv bus bombing, insisting it was carried out on orders from "external sources."

"On behalf of my people and myself I convey my warmest condolences to the families of the innocent victims who lost their lives as a result of this contemptible act in Tel Aviv by the enemies of peace," he said.

"To push the peace process forward is the answer to the acts of these fanatics aiming to destroy the peace

process, obtaining their money, training, and instructions from external sources."

Arafat has frequently accused Hamas of being financed and instructed from Iran and Jordan, which Israel has considered an evasion of responsibility for dealing with Hamas terror himself.

While Hamas figures were largely silent, there was widespread condemnation of the bomb massacre from figures identified with the Palestinian Authority.

JON IMMANUEL

Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo, Hanan Ashrawi, head of the Commission for Civil Rights, PLO Jerusalem Minister Faisal Husseini, PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidan, and journalist-lawyer Ziad Abu Zayyad all condemned the attack in radio and TV interviews.

Rasem Biyari, General Secretary of the Palestinian Trade Union Federation in the Gaza Strip, wrote to His-

tadrut General Secretary Haim Ramon "sharing with the families their grief and anger" and condemning "any form of retaliatory action from either side."

He warned that the government's decision to prevent Palestinians from crossing the Green Line into Israel would "not be in the interests of the peace process" if prolonged.

Palestinians workers made their way home beginning at mid-morning after the closure was announced. Some expressed understanding for

the closure, while others considered it punishment and did not understand the connection between the bus attack and the closure.

"I must work, otherwise what is peace worth?" asked Mounther Barakat as he crossed the checkpoint to Bethlehem by foot carrying a bag of work clothes.

Some workers at the Erez checkpoint said they left their work in Tel Aviv as soon as they heard of the bomb attack, fearful of attack by angry Israelis.

US pushes for Arab states to condemn Hamas

HILLEL KUTTILER

WASHINGTON

THE US pressed countries in the Middle East and elsewhere yesterday to roundly condemn Hamas after the organization took responsibility for yesterday's Tel Aviv bus attack.

In the bombing's aftermath, the administration is "raising this issue in a host of capitals today and suggesting in a variety of ways, diplomatically, that those who believe they might have some influence on this type of activity ought to use their influence to bring this to an end," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

The effort is aimed at "coordinating law enforcement efforts, to get at the sources of funding of some of these groups," a senior US official said. "We want to work to cut back the funding, sanctuary, support these groups have. We want everyone in the world to think it's a high matter of concern."

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich called for a coordinated international effort to rein in Iran's support of Hamas. "Certain practical matters will have to be taken first with regards to Iran, which as a state and a government is radiating these ideas and extending excellent support to Hamas and other organizations," he said.

Barak: IDF will take steps

RAINE MARCUS

ISRAEL may have to review its relations and revise its policy concerning the Palestinians if no other options are open, Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak said yesterday at the scene of the attack.

When asked if the IDF will operate in the Gaza Strip against Hamas and Islamic Jihad strongholds, Barak replied that the army has the authority "to take whatever steps necessary."

"We will continue to gather intelligence information and use whatever influence we have to uproot this phenomenon," said Barak.

"Since this is the third attack during the last 10 days we will need to use all our intelligence resources and may need to re-examine our lifestyles, and our relations with the Palestinians," he said.

Barak and Chief of Intelligence Branch Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy arrived on the scene at around 12:30 p.m. and witnessed the horrors first-hand from the inside of the wreck of the bus, before rescue services had time to remove all the bodies.

Barak issued immediate orders to seal off Gaza, Judea and Samaria.

The Palestinian Authority is not doing enough to crack down on Hamas and the Islamic Jihad organizations, and must do everything in its power to fight terror groups based in Gaza, he said.

Although yesterday's attack bears similarities to previous ones, the IDF may now take drastic steps in an attempt to prevent future attempts by Hamas to commit mass murders, said Barak.

The closure of the territories and the prevention of the entrance to Israel of around 20,000 workers will reduce the chances of such attacks in the future, he added.



Palestinian trucks are stopped by the IDF at the Erez checkpoint yesterday after Prime Minister Rabin ordered Gaza closed. (AP)

Boy injured in Afula bombing shares pain with the victims

DAVID RUDGE

"WHEN I saw the terrible scenes in Tel Aviv on the television I started to cry, because I know what it's like," said 13-year-old Shlomi Eliahu at his home in Afula yesterday.

"I thought about all the suffering the wounded will have to go through and their families, like I had to and my family," said Shlomi, who is still recovering from injuries he suffered in the suicide car bomb attack in the heart of his hometown in April this year.

Shlomi still has to wear a pressure suit and mask because of the severe burns he suffered and has undergone several operations. More are planned in the future.

He only returned to his studies in September this year. After school he spends several hours at Emek Hospital undergoing continuing physiotherapy. He expects to have to continue wearing the mask and other coverings for another 18 months.

"First of all, I want to express my condolences to the bereaved and wish all the wounded a speedy recovery. Maybe I will go to the hospital to help the wounded by explaining to them what they should do and how to respond to the treatment," said Shlomi.

"I know that when I was being treated I caused a lot of trouble. But my father was always there and told me what I had to do, having the bandages changed, wearing the pressure suit, and undergoing physiotherapy even though it hurt. He was the only one who could control me."

"I don't have any open wounds now and things have been a lot better since about two months ago, although my back still hurts sometimes from the result of the burns and its difficult to sit or lie down."

Shlomi was at a bus stop only a few meters away from the scene of the blast in Afula on April 6, which killed eight people and wounded 44.

He was at school yesterday when he first heard about the Tel Aviv suicide bomb attack. "I don't blame all the Arabs for all of this, just Hamas and those fanatic, crazy people. They are brainwashed and mad and they are pressured into doing it," he said.

"All they are interested in is trying to destroy the peace process. But they are not all like that. On the contrary, there were some Arab people in the

beds beside me when I was in the hospital. They helped me and my family and we all helped each other."

"Having friends coming to see me and talk helped me a lot in my rehabilitation, because just by being there they took away the pain and the hurt for a while. Now I'm back at school and everybody treats me as normal, which is also good," added Shlomi.

Yossi Levy is head of the youth culture department of Afula Municipality. He was put in charge of efforts to support and assist wounded youngsters from the Afula blast and bereaved families.

"We, unfortunately, have had a lot of experience in helping to deal with the trauma following such an attack and we have offered our assistance to Tel Aviv," said Levy.

He went to the scene of the Afula blast and helped in the rescue and relief operations, as well as in the grisly task of collecting parts of the bodies of those killed. Levy noted that two of those wounded in the blast are still receiving treatment in the hospital.

"Seeing what happened in Tel Aviv was like seeing a film of what we had been through. It was to feel again the same sense of frustration and helplessness, pain and anger," said Levy.

ARRIVALS

Mrs. Evelyn Blachor, national vice president, AMIT Women, USA, for the Board of Governors Meeting of the Jewish Agency, and on AMIT business.

Police working overtime

BILL HUTMAN

THOUSANDS of police officers nationwide were put on special 12-hours-on, 12-hours-off shifts in an effort to beef up security following the Tel Aviv bus bombing.

Patrols and roadblocks were also increased as part of police efforts to contain the recent wave of Arab terror.

But no "magical solutions," as one senior officer put it, were put into place, with Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz certain the attack did not result from faulty police operations.

"We have always said, and will continue to say to the public, that there is no such thing as 100 percent security," said the officer, who attended a meeting of police brass after the attack.

In a statement, a police spokesman said having officers on 12-hour shifts translates into more manpower, which can be used in various police operations.

The longer shift - with officers normally working eight hours - applies to virtually all field officers, the spokesman said.

Police were also prepared for the possibility of revenge attacks on Arab targets, he said.

Hefetz, meanwhile, praised the "quick reaction" of Tel Aviv police and rescue squads to yesterday's attack.

NEWSLINE

with PROF. YONAH ALEXANDER

Prof. Alexander is director of the studies in terrorism program at George Washington University in Washington, DC, and the former director of the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism at the State University of New York. He is currently teaching a course on terrorism at Tel Aviv University.

Is the suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv connected to the peace process?

It was clear that the rejectionists would escalate their activities, especially after the agreement with Jordan, so an attack of this sort came as no surprise. These kind of dramatic attacks, using conventional weapons, are aimed at causing maximum casualties and shattering the confidence of the Israeli public in the success of the peace process.

Is the Tel Aviv attack reminiscent of those perpetrated in Buenos Aires, London and even at the World Trade Center in New York?

It is similar to the other bombings in terms of the drama and the number of lives lost, as well as in its effect - of shaking up all those working to advance the cause of peace. The message is also the same, that nowhere is safe. People and the international community in particular have to realize that this type of terrorism is worldwide and knows no boundaries.

Was this a carefully planned attack?

For this atrocity to happen in the heart of Tel Aviv means that the arm of terrorism is long and that the terrorists have the ability to select the time and place of attacks. There is no doubt that this attack was carefully planned. It would have taken a great deal of time to prepare the explosive device and gather intelligence as regards the place. It seems to me that Hamas has become more daring and more professional. It appears to be willing to take greater risks to achieve its goal, of angering the Israeli public in order to weaken the peace process.

Is there any connection between Hamas and Hizbullah?

I don't know if Hizbullah was involved in any direct way in this attack but there certainly are ties between the two, both of which are supported by Iran. The Hamas activists who were deported to Lebanon even said they were grateful to the government for expelling them. It gave them the opportunity to be trained and there's no doubt that Hizbullah played a role in this training, because they have the expertise, the know-how and the capability. What can be done to prevent or at least curtail such attacks?

I think the government has acted correctly by closing the territories, and the Gaza Strip which is the major source of terror. The public and in particular public transport bodies such as Dan and Egged have to be more alert and the latter certainly need to upgrade their security arrangements.

The Palestinian Authority under Yasser Arafat must also be pressed to take the terrorist threat more seriously and do something radical to resolve the problem. I would also like to see increased cooperation between Israel and countries such as Jordan, Egypt and Turkey, as well as the Palestinians, to mobilize all resources to combat terrorism, because unless something is done to restore the confidence of the Israeli public, the peace process itself will be in a great deal of trouble.

What kind of pressure should be put on the Palestinian Authority?

First it has to be made absolutely clear that we cannot allow these kind of attacks and outrages to continue. I also believe that it does not make sense to continue talks with the Palestinians over other issues, such as the elections, while the threat from terrorism remains. I would suggest freezing the talks until we have more concrete evidence that the Palestinians are acting to restore security.

What should the international community do?

The UN should immediately convene a special session of the security council to condemn this outrage. The international community has to make it clear that it won't surrender to terrorism and it should start mobilizing forces now for the fight against this disease.

Every effort should also be made to identify the perpetrators and action should be taken against states such as Iran and even Syria which sponsor terrorism. If Syria is really interested in peace it should take steps of its own to get itself erased from the "black list" by closing down all terrorist bases in its territory and at least expelling all the terrorists and rejectionists, otherwise the peace process is in jeopardy.

What can we expect in the future?

Hamas has already made it clear it will continue its attacks, but what concerns me in the long term is the type of weapons that might be used in the future. We know that some countries in this region are already equipped with non-conventional weapons. Can you imagine what might have happened in Tel Aviv if the suicide bomber had used non-conventional arms? In such a scenario there really would not be any boundaries and this is my greatest concern about terrorism in the future.

David Rudge

Lau sends condolences to bereaved

CHIEF Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau yesterday sent his condolences to the families of those killed in yesterday's attack and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

Lau said he has asked the pope to ask other religious leaders, particularly Moslems, to act against those who spill the blood "of the innocent in the name of the Creator."

"Unfortunately," Lau said, "I have not seen any response to the call."

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TOVA (GERTRUDE) NATHAN

The funeral will leave from Sanhedria at 12 noon today, Thursday, October 20, for Har Hamenuhot.

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Victim Susanna Alperin is brought to Ichilov Hospital. "Only minutes after the explosion did I understand what had happened," she said.

(Hani Orshid/Netanyahu)

Bombing halts the heartbeat of 'The City that Never Stops'

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

THE normally bustling cafes and chic shops of Dizengoff Street, the pulsing center of "The City that Never Stops," were hushed and silent yesterday morning after the most stunning terror attack to ever take place there.

Witnesses said that minutes after the blast that tore apart the Dan No. 5 bus, pedestrians and motorists alike were virtually paralyzed with disbelief.

Avi, a visitor from Acre, had been sitting in a cafe when the bus exploded in front of him.

"I was just sitting in a cafe, minding my own business, when I heard the boom. Then I heard people calling: 'Help me, help me!' So I went to the bus and started trying to pull people out."

"It was horrible in the front of the bus — that's where the dead people were. There were people with no heads, cut in half, missing arms and legs. I couldn't take it. It was easier for me to help the people out of the back of the bus; most of them were not injured as badly."

He was injured when a piece of debris from the bus that had flown overhead and caught on an electric wire suddenly fell on him.

"Where can you go in this country?" he asked, shaking his head. "You go to Jerusalem — boom. You go to Hadera — boom. You go to Tel Aviv — boom. I'm going home."

The explosion happened immediately on the northern side of Dizengoff Square, near the corner of Dizengoff and Rehov Esther Hamalka.

Throughout the morning, like viewers on the balcony watching some kind of horrible opera, crowds pressed against the rail to gaze at the remnants of the bus and the bodies strewn in the area, as rescue vehicles and clean-up crews rushed to the scene to tend to the wounded and mop up the gore strewn across the street and sidewalks.

"It was one of the most awful things I have ever seen — the bodies and the wounded, the young people and the old people. I don't think I even remember a sight like this during the time I was police minister," said Mayor Ronni Milo. "These terrorists attacked what I believe is the center of the life of the State of Israel."

The terrorists could not have chosen a target or a location more central to life in Tel Aviv. Not only is Dizengoff Square the best known and busiest place in the city, but the No. 5 bus, which traverses the city from north to south, is perhaps its most-traveled line.

Milo said that it was too early to assess what steps the municipality could take to prevent such a disaster from recurring, or whether it could have been prevented.

After surveying the scene, he asked the information center that the municipality had set up.

Kathryn Harrison, an official at the American Embassy, arrived at the scene shortly after the explosion to determine whether there were any American citizens among the victims.

Opposition politicians were also

quick to arrive. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu and Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan called for Israeli forces to seek out and destroy terrorist targets in areas included in the Palestinian authority.

Netanyahu told reporters it is "absurd that we are entrusting our security to Yasser Arafat. Gaza has become a safe haven for terrorists. Gaza has to be closed, and it has to be cleared out."

As the day wore on, impromptu demonstrations broke out in the area, as demonstrators waved anti-government placards and chanted "Death to the Arabs."

"I heard the explosion, saw arms and legs on the ground, people were burned alive," said Doron Gambash, who had been playing basketball a block away, angrily. "But let the government keep telling us everything's fine. Let them keep saying nothing will interfere with the peace process. Great, great, that really makes me feel secure."

Shopkeepers pointed out that although the buses had been crowded with commuters when the bomb went off, just before 9 a.m., it was fortunate that Dizengoff is a street where things get started relatively late.

Because most shops were not yet open, the sidewalks were not crowded and the deaths and injuries were almost exclusively inside the bus.

Since the street was cordoned off for the remainder of the morning, most of the store owners sat in stunned silence and tried to do what they could to assist the police and rescue teams and forget the horror they had just witnessed.

"I was in a war," said Abraham Kadmoni, sitting in his friend's record shop. "But nothing was worse than what I just saw. I have even seen a bus explode before, a bus that was hit with a missile from a Phantom jet. But that explosion didn't come close to what I saw happen to this bus."

Usually packed with shoppers in the early evening, the Dizengoff Center shopping mall was eerily quiet at 6:30, with very few people about.

"Who can shop or be cheerful after such a dreadful thing?" asked a saleswoman in a perfume store.

Down the road, there were no lines by the movie theaters' box offices.

At the blast site itself, medics were evacuating a man who had fainted in what was described as delayed shock.

They had to push their way through crowds of people, since at least 200 people had gathered on both sides of the street, held back from the road by policemen.

Furious arguments had erupted in several spots. "I hope that Shulamit Aloni jumps into the grave together with all those poor people," screamed a woman who said she had come from Ramle after hearing the terrible news.

Another man blamed building contractors for bringing in Arabs from Gaza. "They go down to Gaza and beg them to come and work," he shrieked.

Helen Kaye contributed to this report.

Hevra Kadisha volunteers perform grim task

RAINE MARCUS

AT 3:30 p.m., Hevra Kadisha volunteers were still scraping blood, body parts and torn flesh from the walls of nearby stores and apartments, and from the rubble-littered ground near the remains of the No. 5 bus on Dizengoff Street.

"In that second-floor apartment we just found bits of brains and fingers on the sofa," said Eliezer Leventhal. Rescue services also found body parts on a nearby rooftop.

Around 40 volunteers donned rubber gloves, and equipped with paint scrapers searched under every piece of burnt iron and broken glass for body remains.

Everything that could possibly be interpreted as flesh or blood was scraped up by the volunteers and put into plastic bags for burial.

One man was scraping blood and tissue from what had been the bumper of the bus. Another was cleaning blood-spattered storefronts, whose windows and blinds were smashed in the blast.

The street was still stained with blood at 4 p.m. until municipality workers started their arduous task of cleaning the area.

The No. 5 bus stop became

Hevra Kadisha's headquarters — the bloodstained bench was full of plastic bags, cotton wool and nylon gloves.

The volunteers sifted through bus seats and parts of the bus which had flown several meters to the other side of the street.

Three mutilated bodies still remained trapped under the charred remains of the bus.

Haim Moshe, the head of the special IDF unit specializing in matching and identifying body parts which works in conjunction with the Hevra Kadisha, said he had never seen such sights. Body parts were sent to Abu Kabir laboratory for identification, including fingerprint testing, and the matching of dental records.

"I have seen the most shocking terrorist attacks but this is the worst I have ever seen," said Moshe.

The authorities were still having difficulties identifying bodies last night. By around 5 p.m., Dizengoff Street was opened to traffic and pedestrians, but as one kiosk owner said, "It will be a long time, if ever, before things return to normal here."

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Weizman: Root out Hamas and rip it apart

BATSHEVA TSUR

"We have to find the Hamas, the Izzadin Kassam members, catch them, root them out, and rip them apart, and that's what I hope the IDF and the defense forces will do," President Ezer Weizman said yesterday in response to the Dizengoff Street attack.

However, Weizman stressed that the nation must remain united, now more than ever before, despite the terrible pain.

"There is no doubt that here some kind of extraordinary action has to be taken, something that has not been done before," Weizman told reporters. "The terrorist attacks are becoming more and more intensive." Cutting short a visit to the Dead Sea Works, the president and his wife Reuma drove to Tel Aviv where they visited the wounded in Ichilov Hospital.

As the presidential couple entered the building, the crowd began shouting "Death to the Arabs" and "Rabin is to blame for this." The Weizmans did not react.

Journalists jostling to take pictures and record the president's every word made it difficult for the doctors to treat the patients, and for the Weizmans to speak with them.

In one ward, they met the first victim of the attack to reach the hospital. He had been wounded by shrapnel while driving behind the bus and

told the Weizmans how he had been picked up by a passing vehicle. "It was a brand new car and the driver didn't even worry that I got blood all over his seat," he said.

By the time they reached the intensive care ward, security men had to hold back the reporters. Reuma Weizman remained outside and only the president went in briefly to encourage the wounded.

"Just as we are united in anger, in mourning and for some, perhaps, in hate, we have to remain united as a nation, and I am appealing to political leaders in this respect as well," the president said on emerging from the hospital. "More than ever before."

"Error is perhaps even more difficult to bear than war," he added. "We are about to sign a peace treaty with Jordan and even at a time of such tremendous tragedy we must look forward and believe that there is hope that there can be coexistence."

The president added: "We must be level-headed about how to respond, how to swallow our pain and to find the means towards a better future."

Weizman later refused to accept a call from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"He called me, not at the hospital, and I didn't want to speak to him," Weizman said. "It wasn't the timing, and it's not the first time he's wanted to talk to me. I have nothing whatsoever to say to him."



President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, visit the wounded at Ichilov Hospital yesterday. Below, one of the victims is rushed to the emergency room. (Israel Sun)

The wounded arrived in waves

HELEN KAYE

ICHILOV Hospital swung into emergency action only minutes after receiving news of the bombing at 9:02, according to director-general Dr. Gabi Barabash. The special trauma unit was readied for casualties, but only three were treated there "because we found that the regular emergency room could handle the injured," he said.

The first wave of wounded, some 25 to 30, arrived three minutes later. The next wave were the lightly injured.

"Most of the injuries are blast related," said Dr. Pinas Halperin, director of emergency services, "and it's difficult to say what the prognosis is. That's why we like to keep people under observation for at least 24 hours. We also have cases of smoke inhalation, burns, and of course cuts from glass shards."

"You never think it'll happen to you," said Marina, 26, her blue eyes clouded with shock. The tiny, pretty, redhead immigrated from the former USSR four years ago and was on her way to work, and suffered several cuts. She is one of those under observation for possible complications resulting from the blast.

"I was sitting in the next to last row of the bus, and there was a bang. I fainted, and when I woke up I thought I'd been in an accident. I couldn't move. There was blood everywhere. I thought that if I wanted to live I'd better move, and I crawled to the window."

"I think that somebody helped me out," she said as she closed her eyes. "There was a woman under the bus. I think maybe she'd been blown out of the window, and I could see that she wasn't, couldn't be alive any more. It was only when I got to the hospital that I found there'd been a bomb."

Haim Benar, 70, had cuts on his face and blood on his still white shirt. He was sitting at the Tivoli Cafe, on the corner of Esther Hamalka and Dizengoff. "Suddenly I saw a huge flash," he said. "There was an explosion and a shower of glass. I saw the bus. The driver was dead; there were bodies on the road. And in the rear of the bus, people were sitting like statues, in shock."

Dikla Nazrad, 21, a waitress at the Tivoli, also suffered facial cuts. She covered her eyes when she heard the explosion.

"People were running and screaming. There was blood everywhere and bodies. I ran outside to try and help, then someone came up to me and said: 'You're bleeding,' and I was but hadn't noticed."

In one of the hospital rooms, a slight woman in a brown dress was sitting rigidly, unmoving except that her whole body was shaking uncontrollably. One of the psychiatrists the hospital brought in to deal with the inevitable post-traumatic stress that sets in after such horrendous events, was sitting opposite her, talking to her softly.

Avraham Cohen, a small cut over his left eye, was driving a No. 5 bus that was taking on passengers when the bomb went off. He heard people begin to scream and "then we were hit by the flying glass."

"I was first on the bus and suddenly everything exploded," said Susanna Alperin, 43, whose entire face and upper chest was a mass of tiny cuts. She was perched nervously on the cot in the emergency room, too dazed to notice much.

"At first, I felt as if something had fallen on me. Then I got off the bus and started running. Then somebody gave me water and I realized that I had blood all over my face."

MDA spokesman Dan Amnon announced that by 4 p.m., area residents had donated 1,000 units of blood and that people were still streaming into the blood centers. He said that 21 ambulances and seven mobile intensive care units evacuated the wounded. In addition to the 42 wounded taken to Ichilov, two lightly wounded people were taken to Wolfson Hospital in Holon.



'Dan doing its utmost against terror'

HAIM SHAPIRO

DAN bus company spokesman Gavriel Shemesh said yesterday that the company does all it can with the resources at its disposal to prevent terror attacks.

"The drivers are instructed to check their buses every half hour of their route, when they turn around," Shemesh said. He added that it is impossible to check the buses en route when they are full of passengers.

The drivers are also instructed to watch and see who gets on and get off, but he said it was impossible to check everyone.

"There are 1.5 million passengers on public transportation every day. Dan has 700,000 passengers a day.

We can't check everyone who gets on and off," Shemesh said.

He said that the company was not asking for any additional security assistance in light of the tragedy. He added that it takes many security measures which he could not make public, so that they would continue to be effective.

"We have a very difficult problem. We have a very tough enemy, but we can't close up the entire state hermetically," the Dan spokesman said.

Shemesh appealed to the public to do all it can to see who gets on the buses, who sits next to them, and what they are carrying.

"The public is the best eyes we have. The drivers have to watch the road," Shemesh said.

Team of social workers take calls

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

THE phones did not cease ringing throughout the day yesterday as a team of 30 social workers, psychologists, and medical workers manned an information center set up by the Tel Aviv Municipality in a Dizengoff shopping mall.

Over 1,000 calls flowed into the center from worried relatives and friends of people feared killed or wounded in the morning's bus explosion. Some 500 individuals came to the center in person.

The social workers pored over the lists of wounded received from local hospitals and referred family members to the appropriate one. Those looking for passengers who did not appear on the lists and were feared dead were referred to the police.

"A lot of the people calling really went into shock," said Karine Zeldin, one of the social workers. Teams of social workers and psychologists were dispatched to the homes of those callers who appeared distraught on the telephone.

Municipality social services head Ze'ev Friedman said thousands of phone calls had come into the center, which had moved from the shopping mall to the municipality building by 8 p.m.

"This center has been the scene of small dramas all day," Friedman said. Some relatives came to the center in person as the lists of wounded came in. There were scenes of shock and horror, and also of vast relief when relatives learned that their relatives had escaped injury or had only been injured lightly.

"It's been a day of talking to terribly worried people," said Leonora Eshar, as her phone rang once again. "It's been very hard work. It's been a tough day."

Family members sat at the tables poring over the lists looking for their loved ones and waiting anxiously for the next lists to arrive. One woman cried in relief when her husband, whom she had thought was on the bus, managed to telephone a nearby record store to tell her that he was all right.

Avia Reiter, a school psychologist, was pulled out of work to report to the information center.

"I'm here to guide families of those who were on the bus, to talk to them, support them, help them get information, do anything I can for them," she explained.

She had taken part in emergency exercises for disasters on this scale, and had been called into service during the Gulf War Scud attacks, but said she found it hard to comprehend that the bus explosion had actually happened.

The city maintained an open information line which fielded some 1,000 calls during the day. The line is to remain in service today: (03) 5465338 or 6049700. The special information center line that moved from the Dizengoff mall to the municipality remains in use until further notice at: (03) 5234402.

Tax men begin to assess damage

JOSE ROSENFELD

TEL AVIV Property Tax offices yesterday morning began evaluating the property damage caused by the bomb attack on Dizengoff Street to be able to speedily repair or compensate owners.

Property owners who suffered damage but were not registered by Property Tax officials in the field are requested to file their claims at the Central District Property Tax office at Beit Ma'ariv, Derech Petah Tikva 55, sixth floor, Tel Aviv.

Gush Dan sense of security shattered

Public goes from elation to depression

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

THERE are some residents of Tel Aviv and its outlying suburbs who not only avoid traveling to Gaza, Jericho, or Bethlehem, but are even reluctant to visit Jerusalem or the Negev because of their perception of a greater risk of falling victim to a terrorist attack there.

The explosion of a No. 5 Dan bus in the heart of Tel Aviv yesterday morning has shattered any sense of relative security these Gush Dan residents may have had, according to psychologists in the area.

"Nothing on this scale has happened in Tel Aviv in the recent past," said Dr. Robert Chernick, a Herzliya psychologist. "It gives people a feeling that a regression is occurring—that we are going backward instead of forward."

The explosion—like last week's terror attack in Jerusalem and the kidnapping and murder of IDF soldier Nahshon Wachman—coming at the same time as giant strides in the peace process, Chernick says, is understandably leading to a sense of disorientation and frustration.

"We are running so far ahead with regard to peace in certain fronts and then we are going so far backwards in so many other ways. Think of the past week: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we were focused on the funerals of Wachman and Nir Poraz. Then on Tuesday there was the elation at the initialing of the peace treaty with Jordan and the arrival of Syrian Jews, and now this. It reminds me of a manic depressive who goes from states of elation to states of depression. There are surely going to be irrational reactions to these events, particularly in this area where nothing like this has happened in so long."

The bombardment of gory and frightening pictures from such a familiar location, Chernick said, may cause anxiety in both children and adults. Frustration is enhanced, he said, by the feeling that Israel's reaction must be muted, because of the peace process.

"Just like during the Gulf War," he said, "we feel like our hands are somewhat tied in terms of retaliation."

Tel Aviv clinical psychologist Dr. Rachel Halevi said that she has observed people are "scared and feeling rather helpless, impotent. I have one friend who asked what she is supposed to do if she is too scared to take a bus downtown. You really can't get any closer to the heart of the country than that."

Chernick said that a great deal of patience is going to be necessary to cope with recent events. "I think we can all take Nahshon Wachman's father as our example," he said. "I was so impressed by his ability to do what we call in psychology as 'reframing his plight.' When they asked him if he didn't feel his prayers to free his son went unheard, he put his plight in incredible perspective. He said that it was a miracle that more than one soldier wasn't killed in the attempt to rescue his son. He was incredibly thoughtful and wise."

"Everyone is going to have to demonstrate that kind of wisdom and perspective. Otherwise it will just be too much—for the government to ask for all these sacrifices towards peace while facing all these tragedies. On the one hand giving up so much territory that has so much meaning to us, and on the other it doesn't seem like we are getting the fruits of peace."

Buses – a very long history as targets of terror

March 17, 1954 – Ma'ale Akram. An Egged bus en route from Eilat to Tel Aviv was ambushed by a group of infiltrators near the Engineer Corps monument. Eleven of the 16 passengers were killed and two seriously wounded.

May 24, 1970 – Northern Border Road. A bus taking children from Moshav Avivim to Moshav Dovev was attacked by infiltrators from Lebanon, who hit it with three bazooka rockets. Twelve passengers, including eight children, were killed; 21 were wounded.

March 11, 1978 – Coastal Road Attack. The worst attack ever in which 32 people were killed and 65 wounded after terrorists who landed on the coast in rubber boats hijacked two buses near Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael. They were stopped at an IDF roadblock at the Country Club junction outside Tel Aviv.

July 30, 1981 – Ma'ale Hahamisha. The No. 65 bus is attacked by two terrorists near the kibbutz in the Judean Hills. Four passengers were wounded.

January 9, 1983 – Bus No. 201. Four terrorists hurled grenades at the bus south of Tel Aviv. Eleven passengers were wounded.

December 7, 1983 – Jerusalem No.

18. A large bomb packed with nails, placed under a seat, exploded in the bus on Herzl Boulevard. Four passengers were killed and 50 wounded.

March 8, 1984 – Ashdod. A bomb exploded on an Egged bus, killing three passengers and wounding eight.

April 13, 1984 – Bus No. 300. Four terrorists hijacked a bus en route from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon near the Ashdod junction and forced it to the Gaza Strip. During the rescue, a female soldier was killed and eight passengers were wounded.

September 18, 1984 – Bus No. 60. Shots were fired at a bus en route from Jerusalem to Kiryat Arba. Seven passengers were wounded, two of them Arabs.

October 28, 1984 – Bus No. 23. A LAW anti-tank rocket was fired at a bus en route to Hebron near Sultan's Pool. An Arab passenger was killed and 10 were wounded.

June 14, 1985 – Haila Central Bus Station. A bomb exploded in a bus after the passengers had disembarked. Only the driver was in the bus. No one was hurt.

February 14, 1986 – Dan Bus No.

66. A pipe bomb left in a trash can exploded on a bus, en route from Petah Tikva to Tel Aviv, in Bnei Brak. Nine passengers were wounded, most lightly.

February 1, 1987 – Bus No. 940. A bomb exploded on a bus, en route from Haifa to Tel Aviv, near Hadera. Nine passengers were wounded.

March 7, 1988 – The Bus of the Mothers. Terrorists hijacked a bus carrying cleaning women to the nuclear research station in Dimona on the Mitze Ramon Road. In the ensuing battle, three passengers were killed and eight wounded.

October 30, 1988 – Jericho Fire-bombing. Rachel Weiss, her three small children, and a soldier were killed when a firebomb hit Bus No. 961 near Jericho. Five other passengers were wounded.

July 6, 1989 – The Bus No. 405 Tragedy. A terrorist attacked the driver on a bus en route from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, causing it to crash down a steep incline. Sixteen passengers were killed and 25 wounded.

April 25, 1990 – Lod. A small bomb exploded on a bus en route from Tel Aviv to Lod. No one was hurt.

December 3, 1990 – Dan Bus No. 66. Three terrorists entered the bus and began stabbing passengers. Four were killed.

October 28, 1991 – Tapuah Junction. Three terrorists fired at a bus, en route to a right-wing demonstration in Tel Aviv, near Eli. Two passengers were killed and five children were wounded.

January 14, 1992 – Bus No. 178. Two terrorists, hidden in the rocks, fired at a bus near Bir Zeit. Seven passengers were wounded.

July 1, 1993 – Bus No. 25. Terrorists tried to hijack a bus in Jerusalem. The driver and a female passenger were killed. The then fled with a hostage who was killed when the would-be hijackers reached an army roadblock.

September 12, 1993 – Bus No. 300. A terrorist stabbed and killed the driver of a bus en route from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon. Two soldiers were wounded. The terrorist was shot and killed.

October 5, 1993 – Bus No. 178. A suicide driver crashed a car bomb into a bus 100 meters from the gate of an IDF divisional headquarters near Beit El. Thirty soldiers were wounded.

December 12, 1993 – Bus No. 461. A terrorist boarded a bus near the

Holon Junction while shooting. The driver pushed him off and drove off. The terrorist was killed by soldiers nearby. One passenger was killed.

January 4, 1994 – Bus 905. A small bomb exploded on a bus en route from Haifa to Jerusalem. No one was hurt.

April 6, 1994 – Afula Car Bombing. Seven people were killed and 52 wounded when a car bomb, detonated by a suicide attacker, exploded next to a bus taking on high school pupils in Afula. Hamas claimed responsibility in reprisal for the Hebron massacre.

April 13, 1994 – Hadera Suicide Bombing. Five people were killed and 30 injured when a terrorist with a bomb strapped to his body boarded a bus and set off the bomb at the Hadera central bus station. Another bomb, set to go off later, was found nearby and exploded harmlessly.

April 18, 1994 – Bus No. 25. An ax-wielding terrorist went on a rampage on a crowded bus in northern Jerusalem. Four passengers were wounded.

May 10, 1994 – Beit El. Three passengers were wounded by gunshots fired at Bus No. 474 near the village of Mazra'a a-Sharkia, north of Beit El.

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Tel Aviv demonstrators express their anger after yesterday's bomb attack on the No. 5 bus.

(AP)

Clinton: Bombing an 'outrage,' planned Middle East trip still on

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, sticking to plans for a Mideast trip next week, said the terrorist bombing yesterday was an attempt to dash the hopes of both Palestinians and Israelis but will not deter peace efforts. Clinton, in a written statement, said the bombing was "an outrage against the conscience of the world" that was "aimed at destroying the hopes of the Palestinian people as surely as it is directed at the people of Israel."

He called on leaders in the Middle East and elsewhere to condemn the attack and "ensure that there is no haven or support for those responsible."

"Together we will ensure that the promise of peace for which we have worked so long is realized," Clinton said.

"The act comes at a moment when we're rejoicing in the progress which has been made toward a real and lasting peace in the Middle East," Clinton said.

Press secretary Dee Dee Myers said Clinton's plans for his trip were still being completed, but that the White House had confidence its security measures

were sufficient "to protect the president wherever he should end up going."

Clinton plans to address the Israeli and Jordanian parliaments and to visit US troops in Kuwait during his visit. His advisers are also considering a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

The schedule was still open Tuesday night, with consideration also being given to a brief detour to Cairo to see Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whose advice on the views of Arab leaders has benefited both the Bush and Clinton administrations.

If Clinton decides to go to Damascus and to Cairo it would be the most extensive presidential trip to the Middle East since President Nixon's 18 years ago. President Carter also made an important trip in 1978, brokering Israel and Egypt toward the peace treaty they signed in 1979.

Clinton will send Secretary of State Warren Christopher ahead to talk to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Jerusalem and determine any issues that might be helped by presidential intervention.

Knesset debates attack in special session

LIAT COLLINS

THE terror attack in Tel Aviv overshadowed the activities of the Knesset yesterday.

"As news of the bombing spread, silence fell over the building, and a special session was convened late in the morning."

"A heavy catastrophe has befallen us this morning," said Speaker Shevah Weiss as he opened the session. "A terrorist bomb exploded in the heart of Tel Aviv. We are shocked, hurt, and angered by this heinous act by murderous animals."

An argument broke out about the timing of the special session, with Moshe Eliahu Rehavam Ze'evi demanding it convene immediately and Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres preferring to postpone the session until more details were available.

Peres called the bomb attack "a terrible tragedy" and announced that a closure had been placed on the Arab residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. He said Hamas had accepted responsibility in a statement, released via Reuters.

"Nothing unites the people like this terrible pain, and we will not hesitate to take all steps to find those responsible," Peres said.

Limor Livnat (Likud) called on the MKs to refrain from using the attack for political gain, although she immediately condemned the peace process. "Where is this ironical so-called peace process leading? There is no peace process. There is murder."

Hashem Mahameed (Hadash) said he had received calls from Arabs throughout Israel condemning the act. "This act cannot be forgiven," he said, but added that halting the peace process would give the terrorists everything they want.

Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) called on the government

to deport Hamas leaders. "The Israeli government is the one that encourages terror. Its policy murders peace. A person who passes a bad check has his bank account closed. Yitzhak Rabin has thrown around illusions of peace and it is time to close the government."

Yosef Azran (Shas) said, "I have come to the conclusion that Hamas has a political wing and it is the PLO. They are two sides of the same coin. There is no greater historical distortion than calling this the murder of the peace process. It's the murder of Jews."

"Now is the time to stop acting as politicians and be human beings. An hysterical response is the gift Hamas is asking for," said Ran Cohen (Meretz). "The terrorists slaughtered [people] in the heart of Tel Aviv, and there are two routes we can take: a hysterical response and mutual attack, which would be a gift to the terrorists, or showing restraint, gritting our teeth, biting our lips, and considering the way ahead."

Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) issued a statement calling the government "negligent" in acting against terror.

"A government whose head is also defense, interior and religious affairs minister is not investing all it should into fighting terror," Eitan said.

He said the bus companies should punish drivers who do not carry out the necessary security checks. He also said checks should be made on passengers and those waiting at bus stops.

"The main thing is to carry out total war against the Hamas terrorists everywhere, including Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank," Eitan said.

In light of the bombing, the Knesset rushed through most of its regular business, finishing discussions by 5:30 p.m.

World leaders condemn bombing

LONDON (Reuters) — Leaders from around the world quickly condemned yesterday's bloody bomb attack in Tel Aviv.

In Amman, Jordan's Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali said the kingdom was "against any terrorist attack especially when it is directed at civilians."

The state news agency Petra quoted Majali as saying that while "Jordan supported the rights of people to resist occupation, it could not condone attacks on civilians."

In Cairo, Egypt expressed sorrow over the bombing, and said it was a crime aimed at hindering the PLO-Israeli peace accord.

"We are very sorry about this incident which is basically directed against the peace process," Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told a news conference.

"We don't approve anything that harms and endangers the peace process because this damages Palestinian interests and the Palestinian people," he said after a meeting of foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Arab states.

In Rome, Vatican officials quoted Pope John Paul II as saying he had been deeply saddened by the bombing, and hoped it would not derail the peace process.

In a letter sent to the Holy See's nuncio to Israel, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, said that the pope "expresses the fervent hope that the commitment to bring about peace

with justice for all will triumph over every obstacle and provocation."

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by Itar-Tass news agency, said "extremists' crimes should not and will not stop the movement towards peace in the Middle East."

In London, British Prime Minister John Major expressed shock and outrage at the blast, but said it should not be allowed to undermine the Middle East peace process.

"The prime minister utterly condemns the terrorist act today, which was evidently intended to undermine the peace process," an official statement said. "It will cause revulsion throughout the world. This despicable act, for which Hamas has reportedly claimed responsibility, should only reinforce our collective determination to see the [peace] process succeed."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel condemned the bombing in a telegram to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Kinkel sent his condolences to the relatives of the victims and the people of Israel, and added: "This attack and other terrorist acts in the last few days are to be condemned most strongly. They are attacks not just on innocent people but also attempts to torpedo the Middle East peace process."

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-

Opposition: 'We told you so'

SARAH HONIG

THE opposition lashed out at Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his peace policies after the bombing, while coalition spokesmen kept a very low profile.

The opposition's message was "we told you so."

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu noted that "only two days ago, I personally implored Rabin not to lift the closure of the Gaza Strip; I warned him that terrible bloodshed would ensue. Sadly, Rabin preferred [Yasser] Arafat's interests and the welfare of the Gazans to the safety of his own citizens. Closing Gaza off now is too little, much too late. It is closing the barn door after the horse has bolted."

Rabin promised in his electoral campaign to get Gaza out of Tel Aviv, but we got out of Gaza and Gaza is here in Tel Aviv."

Netanyahu charged that the pursuing "what this government calls its peace policy will only create more Gazans, as we cede more territory that will be turned into safe havens for mass murderers. It is a fallacy to blame Hamas and exonerate the PLO for these atrocities. They are operating hand in glove."

"The PLO secures Israeli withdrawal via negotiations; Hamas uses the vacated areas as terror bases. Hamas is interested in the PLO pursuing this so-called peace process or it would have assassinated Arafat."

The Likud's Ariel Sharon called

on the government to drop "its pursuit of the peace that is not peace, and in this time of emergency form a national unity government."

Netanyahu reacted by saying that "if this government draws back from its misguided Oslo concept, which has already cost 100 Israelis their lives, then we will be loyal partners. But we will fight the government fiercely as long as its policies create such insecurity that people leaving home do not know if they'll make it back."

Tsomet's Rafael Eitan called for a permanent closure of the territories and not one "which will be lifted when Rabin thinks the bad press is over."

"I know Rabin says the Gazans will starve if he does so," he said. "Let them starve if the choice is between their starvation and our being blown to bits. We have a government which is hopelessly captive to its own utopian conceptions."

The National Religious Party urged the government "to lower the tone of its peace celebrations in view of the carnage and bloodshed."

Among the few coalition comments, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid promised that "this government will proceed undaunted down the path of peace, but will seek to remove the mines from that road. There is a greater moderation now in the Arab world, and it will defeat the terrorists."

This week's autonomy election talks end

PLO and Israeli negotiators ended this week's round of talks early yesterday.

Chief negotiator Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild was "deeply hurt and in pain" when informed of the explosion and the high number of deaths, said Hani Yeshurun, spokeswoman for the delegation.

The PLO negotiators were also shocked at the attack, she told reporters.

The delegation was to fly home in the afternoon as planned and had not changed its schedule because of the attack, she added.

"Everything went according to plan. Of course we're very sad and it hurt us a lot what happened this morning in Tel Aviv... At the beginning of the talks the Palestinians condemned the attack," she told reporters.

"Yesterday was a perfect atmosphere, but today we're sad. It has nothing to do with the Palestinians sitting in front of us," she added.

Palestinian delegate Toufik Abu Ghazala said "an atmosphere of sadness" clouded the talks as word of the rising death toll came in. (AP)

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Slaughter in Tel Aviv

THERE was great public appeal in the Labor Party's 1992 election slogan, "Let's get Gaza out of Tel Aviv." Few Israelis have an emotional attachment to Gaza - it was, after all, the land of the Philistines in biblical times - and few believe the strip has greater military value than the equally large area in the Arava ceded to Jordan this week. Most important, Gaza - which contains almost half the Arab population in the territories - has always been a base for terrorist attacks in Green Line Israel. To evacuate it, seal it off, and let its inhabitants "stew in their own juice," as the vernacular had it, seemed to make eminent sense.

Some "hawks" rejected this notion. They claimed that once the army leaves, the district would turn into a terrorist stronghold, another south Lebanon. And even if a "China wall" could be built around it to prevent infiltrations, weapons like Karyusha rockets would be brought in to threaten the Israeli towns and villages around it.

Both views are valid. There is some logic to leaving Gaza and separating it from Israel, and there may be good reasons for keeping the district under Israeli rule. But what makes absolutely no sense is both to forfeit control of the strip and to allow the movement of 50,000 Gazans into Israel every day. This is the precise opposite of "taking Gaza out of Tel Aviv." It is bringing Gaza into Tel Aviv with a vengeance.

The government claims that it has to allow laborers from Gaza to work in Israel - otherwise poverty will only "make things worse." But the government's first and foremost responsibility is to its citizens' safety and welfare. To give Gazans employment when it puts Israeli lives in jeopardy is nothing less than a betrayal of the people's trust.

To make sense out of its departure from Gaza, then, the government must seal it off. The security fence around the district, whose construction is obstructed daily by Gazans stealing massive quantities of barbed wire, must be completed quickly, on a round-the-clock basis. The movement of laborers from Gaza to Israel must cease, not as a temporary measure, but for good. To replace these workers in Israel, the government must issue permits for the importation of 50,000 foreign workers, from Thailand and other countries. And if the government still declines to reassess the Oslo process, it must at least link its continuation to a serious PLO effort to combat Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

This does not mean the isolation of Gaza will stop Hamas activities. But the fact is that Hamas's headquarters, training, organization, and planning are centered in Gaza. Closing it off will deal terrorism a major blow.

Unfortunately, the chances that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will consider such measures are close to nil. As in 1973, the government is hostage to a "concept." Methodically and stubbornly it ignores facts which get in the way of its vision, refusing to admit that its policies have given an unprecedented boost to terrorism. But the bitter fact is that more Israelis, almost 100, have been killed by terrorists in Israel since the fateful

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handshake on the White House lawn than in any year since the establishment of the state.

Almost half of these have been killed in the five months since the PLO took over in Gaza and Jericho. The number would have been much higher had the terrorists been more skillful. Since the signing of the agreement, there have been at least two unsuccessful car-bomb attempts in Gaza, two in Samaria, and one in Jerusalem. Had these bombs worked as intended, the number of dead would have been in the hundreds.

But the most misguided part of the concept is the notion that the terrorists are "enemies of the peace process" who are trying to torpedo the Israel-PLO rapprochement. Parroted by every supporter of the Israeli government, including such leaders as US President Bill Clinton, it is manifestly absurd.

There is no real conflict between the PLO and Hamas. The PLO may go through the motions of arresting Hamas functionaries, and there may even be some bloodshed in the struggle for power among Palestinian factions. But essentially the Palestinian strategy is as simple as it is effective: to force Israel to make concessions by combining negotiations and binding contractual agreements with terrorism. It is a familiar concept, adopted by all dictatorships, including Syria today.

If there is one thing about which there is no disagreement among Palestinians it is that only the "armed struggle" has forced Israel to recognize the PLO, and agree to a withdrawal from the territories and the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state. They believe that more "armed struggle" will spur Israel to make more concessions and faster.

They also assume, correctly, that the government is so bound by its determination to continue the process that nothing will dissuade it. On the contrary, Rabin automatically vows to double his efforts to achieve peace whenever terrorists strike, so that the "enemies of peace" will not achieve their "goal" of killing the process. As Foreign Minister Shimon Peres put it last night, "We will not surrender to Hamas."

Yasser Arafat has also discovered that expressing regret about terrorist acts is enough to placate both Israel and the world. Perhaps President Ezer Weizman sensed the hypocrisy of these regrets when he refused to accept Arafat's call yesterday. But it is all too likely that when the initial shock of the Tel Aviv slaughter wears off, the government will hasten to continue talks about granting the PLO authority in Judea and Samaria, thus assuring the Lebanonization of all the administered territories.

Before the Israeli negotiators resume talking, they may want to read what Farouk Kadoumi, Arafat's "foreign minister," told the Egyptian publication *Al-Musawwar* on September 30: "No one can complain about what Hamas and Jihad are doing. I say that it is the right of every Palestinian to struggle so long as there is a single Israeli soldier on the land of Palestine." It is these words, rather than Arafat's "regrets," which reflect the PLO's true sentiments.



The sightless Samson

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

IT may be a bitter pill to swallow. But last week's kidnapping of Cpl. Nahshon Wachsmann and the spilling of Jewish blood in the heart of Jerusalem were security failures.

The police and security services were caught napping by the suicide attack carried out by Hamas terrorists from Gaza in Nahalat Shiva, the very heart of Jerusalem, apparently aided and abetted by Palestinians from Jerusalem. Only luck and the rainy weather which thinned the crowds prevented a death toll of massacre proportions.

Despite the courage and devotion of the elite commando unit which attempted to rescue Wachsmann, it failed in its mission. Wachsmann died, and so did Capt. Nir Poraz, who led the unit. Twelve of his men were wounded.

These two Hamas triumphs, one on the heels of the other, must be laid at the door of poor intelligence. And yesterday's terror attack on a bus in the center of Tel Aviv, causing heavy casualties and a large number of wounded, marks another black day for the security services.

One of Israel's most proficient agents put it to us:

"The young men and women in our secret service are as highly motivated, skilled and dedicated as ever. But they remind me of the biblical blinded Samson, strong and brave as he was. Today the intelligence services are becoming just that - a sightless Samson."

The security services cannot operate without being fed a constant flow of information from various sources, including "human intelligence" - spies and tip-off men. These informants have been piously branded "collaborators" by Arabs and some Israelis who lack any concept of the facts of life of security work. Yet these people are as essential as oxygen to those who risk their lives to prevent terrorist acts.

In the past, this system operated brilliantly in Gaza and the territories because informants knew they could trust their handlers to look after them if their cover got blown.

TODAY THESE sources feel they have been abandoned to their fate. This is often gruesome: tor-

ture, mutilation and death at the hands of PLO or Hamas agents. This is so despite the fact that the government has allocated NIS 500 million to relocate hundreds of these informants in safe areas.

Some of the lucky ones, still undetected by their fellow Arabs, have refused to play ball with their former Israeli intelligence handlers. They feel betrayed and abandoned. To save their own skins, they know nothing and say nothing.

"I blame the prime minister for this disastrous situation," said our veteran intelligence expert. "It is

Israel's security services are blundering about, powerful but bewildered

the direct result of his policies."

The sad state of our intelligence was made clear to the entire country when Rabin declared he knew for sure that Wachsmann was being held prisoner in Gaza. He boldly warned Arafat that he was personally responsible for the kidnapped corporal's safety.

In reality, his blinded "Samson" floundered for days with not the faintest idea of where the missing corporal was. It wouldn't be stretching the point too far to believe that the four Reuters news agency Palestinian pressmen in Gaza, who served the kidnappers by delivering the video of the captured soldier, were mocking the prime minister in the same way the Philistines jeered at the chained biblical Samson some 3,000 years ago.

It took over four days for information of the whereabouts of the kidnapped corporal to reach Rabin and Ezer Barak, chief of the general staff. As a result, the elite commando unit had precious little time to plan its operation, with the deadline set by Wachsmann's cap-

tors on that black Friday only hours away.

Perhaps this accounted for the technical errors made during the operation, errors which cost the lives of the kidnapped soldier and of the unit commander, whose unenviable task it was to try and compensate for belated intelligence information and the bungling policy of his supreme chief, the prime minister.

There are other mistakes which Wachsmann's bereaved family would like answered, according to close family friend Shlomo Shapiro. For instance, why did 40 vital hours elapse before a serious search was undertaken for the missing corporal?

A heavily orchestrated government cover-up of the extent of the failure to free Wachsmann was launched on TV, radio and the Hebrew press. Omer Bar-Lev and Menachem Digli, two previous commanders at different times of the crack unit which tried to free Wachsmann (and was involved in the successful Entebbe operation), were among those who dutifully played their parts. Both overlooked a similar screw-up in April 1973, when Moshe Dayan was defense minister and David Elazar chief of staff.

On that occasion, a Libyan civilian aircraft which had lost its way and was flying over the Sinai desert was shot down by Israeli jets, following intelligence assessments that the plane was on a terrorist mission. Then too a vast government public relations exercise was launched, with the help of a pliable TV and press, to explain away the death of some 100 civilians on the aircraft.

The same sort of intelligence misjudgment, repeated six months later, turned out to be the most serious blunder in Israel's history. The Golda Meir government was "surprised" when the Egyptians and Syrians launched the Yom Kippur war against the Jewish state.

Hamas's "surprise" bloody initiatives speak volumes about the current state of Israel's security services.

The writers have published books on the Mossad and other intelligence matters.

King of crises

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

DID Saddam Hussein think Clinton might let him get away with retaking Kuwait? If he did, he was mistaken. Clinton put on an admirable display of decisiveness, deterring Iraq with a swift, bold buildup of American forces.

More likely, however, rather than planning to invade, Saddam had a more limited objective: getting sanctions lifted. And, despite the conventional wisdom, here his logic wasn't all that crazy.

True, his show of aggressiveness makes it harder for the UN Security Council to pass resolutions - Russia and France - to plead his case. But they were never Saddam's problem. After a decent interval, they will be back with more reasons for letting Iraq sell oil once again.

Saddam's problem is the US. It keeps moving the goalposts so that even his concessions (such as allowing weapons inspections) bring no relief from the embargo. How to get the US to soften?

Saddam's latest gamble won't pay off

Well, how have the North Koreans gotten the US to soften? Saddam is gambling that he can turn Kuwait to his advantage, just as the North Koreans showed that you can violate international agreements, renege on commitments to the US, directly threaten an American ally - and come out ahead.

No punishment, no sanctions, quite the contrary: the US, frightened by military threats, offers all manner of rewards - trade, aid, diplomatic ties, a light-water nuclear reactor (free) - if only the miscreant will do what he was committed to doing in the first place. Saddam could easily have hoped for some of the same. His troop movements should be seen, therefore, not as a ostentatious bluff, but as a demonstration of his capacity to create recurring crises at will - and thus an invitation to negotiate.

The US cannot defend Kuwait from a distance of 7,000 miles. Nor can it keep ginning up and then winding down the kind of buildup going on today. Saddam thus has something to offer Clinton in a Korea-style negotiation: a guarantee that future crises in return for an easing of sanctions.

AND THIS is where Saddam miscalculated. Clinton cannot engage in a second Korea negotiation. His credibility received a deserved boost from his strong response to Saddam's provocation. Backing into talks now would squander his political gains and expose him yet again to charges of fickleness.

Iraq is Clinton's chance to prove that he can stand his ground. But standing isn't enough. The US needs to keep from getting permanently trapped into Kuwaiti guard duty. It needs to regain the initiative.

Two ways. First, impose a no-tank zone in Southern Iraq (where the US already has a no-fly zone). If no Iraqi tanks are allowed south of the 32nd parallel, 208 km. from Kuwait, the US won't have to keep a large garrison there. Its air force will be in a position to disrupt and disperse any future Iraqi threat long before it reaches the Kuwaiti border.

Unfortunately, the administration appears to be abandoning this idea because of Security Council opposition. In particular, France is opposed. So what? The US bore the brunt of the Gulf War. It will bear the brunt of any future war. Its soldiers are at risk, not France's.

The French don't like it? The US should tell them, in the most delicate diplomatic language, to stuff it. It should declare Saddam's threatening maneuvers a clear violation of the Gulf war cease-fire and invoke its right to prevent him from breaking it again. If the UN won't impose a no-tank zone, the US should impose it unilaterally.

But a no-tank zone isn't enough. It is important to demonstrate that Saddam cannot provoke crises with impunity. There must be a price to pay for disturbing America's peace.

What price? Declare the goalposts for lifting sanctions permanently moved. No relief until Saddam is gone. Use the worldwide revulsion with Saddam and the reminder of his aggressiveness to make overt what has been covert US policy until now: It doesn't matter what Saddam agrees to, whether it is inspection of his weapons of mass destruction or some paper recognition of Kuwait. The US will veto all sanctions relief so long as Saddam rules. Iraq is economically desperate. Saddam wouldn't have launched his latest senseless surprise otherwise. If Clinton hangs tough, he could actually finish the war Bush didn't.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONDITIONAL DEATH SENTENCE

Sir, - The cold-blooded murder of Cpl. Nahshon Wachsmann and the costly, failed rescue attempt call for a bolder and more thoughtful solution. The scourge of hostage-taking for political ransom can be stopped. This will be achieved when response possibilities are broadened beyond the now limited choices of risky military operation, negotiated capitulation, or indiscriminate retaliation.

The Knesset must pass the Nahshon Wachsmann Law. This law will consist of two parts. The first will legislate the death penalty for those convicted of active membership in terror organizations such as Hamas or at least for those members convicted of terrorist bloodshed. This part will further provide that the execution of the death sentence may be postponed until the occurrence of a terrorist abduction. The second part of the law will mandate that in the event of such a terrorist abduction, the prime minis-

ter is to issue an ultimatum. Unless the hostage is released unharmed within 72 hours, 10 of Israel's death-row terrorists will be sequentially executed. The 10 will be picked by a lottery conducted briefly before their execution. This will ensure that, as soon as an abduction occurs, the families of all death-row terrorists will exert massive pressure on the master terrorists to release the Israeli hostage. Hamas leaders will no longer be regarded as heroes by their people when they trigger their death. Nor will they long survive on the streets of Gaza, teeming with relatives of the executed.

Constitutional and legal considerations require that this law not be applied retroactively to those who committed their crimes prior to its enactment.

MEIR N. HERTZ

Lakewood, N.J.

RAMBO-TYPE OPERATION

Sir, - The way in which the tragic kidnapping of Nahshon Wachsmann was handled by the government the defense forces leaves much to be desired.

Firstly, our intelligence was shown to be inaccurate to the point of embarrassment. We heard cabinet ministers on television stating beyond a shadow of doubt that Corporal Wachsmann was being held in the Gaza Strip. When asked how they could be so sure, the arrogant reply was that "if we say so we have our reasons and therefore must be right."

Secondly, the Rambo-type operation carried out by the army virtually sealed the fate of Corporal Wachsmann the minute it was approved by the top-level officers. Surely they must have known that they were dealing with terrorists who would have no qualms about killing their hostage if attacked and who felt that they would be assured of a place in heaven if they were killed fighting against Israel.

The operation should have been carried out using cunning and finesse which had been so much a part of our operations in the past and not this blood-and-glory full frontal attack.

Thirdly, Mr. Rabin stated after the attack that had the soldier been held in the Gaza area, he would have been ready to negotiate. This is like an open invitation to Hamas to have another try, but suggesting that in the future they should take the captives to areas under Arafat's authority.

The fact that Rabin is prepared to take full responsibility does not help Corporal Wachsmann, the officer killed, the men injured or the respective families. All that can now come out of this sorry mess is an enquiry that hopefully will reveal the causes, and prevent such a tragedy occurring again and reach the top echelon rather than junior staff.

S.M. CANNING

Kfar Hamaccabi.

GET REAL

Sir, - Short of seeing the proverbial "writing on the wall," the October 9 attack in Jerusalem has furnished us with the ultimate proof of this government's foolishness and impotence. One of the murderers was recently sprung from jail by Rabin and company. That this hardened criminal presumably signed their ridiculous form agreeing to refrain from terrorism was sufficient for this capitulating leadership. Can they really be that naive? Israel - get real.

SHARITAI SHATSKY

Givat Shimon.

ANOTHER FUNERAL

Sir, - I took my son to a funeral on Saturday night. He is my oldest and getting ready to join the IDF. We stood shoulder to shoulder with tears running freely.

All around me were young men and women, many not older than my son, holding tightly to one another and crying. Young girls who should have been out on this cool, clear Saturday night were spending it at yet another funeral. This is the second boy from my son's high school to be killed by terrorists. This year he has been to too many funerals of his and our friends and I ask myself how much more can he take?

After the service we stood for an hour waiting to put a stone on the fresh grave. As if he read my mind, my son turned to me and said: "Abba, don't worry. I come out of this stronger than before." Around us stood every type of Israeli - religious and secular, black hats and knitted kippot. Maybe that's why I cried. This week politics evaporated and every heart and prayer reached out to that one family.

Tomorrow we will be back to normal - but inside, something has changed. For those few days when we all held hands and all held our breath, we saw the real greatness of this country that I call home.

Jerusalem. ELI BIRNBAUM

POSTSCRIPTS

HERE COME the brides - watch out!

About 1,500 eager brides-to-be charged into a Boston department store bargain basement to battle over satin and lace in a bridal gown sale in which all dresses sold for \$199.

At one point, two women scuffled over a wedding dress, prompting a security guard to intervene. "They just kept coming and coming and coming," said Pat Boudrot, spokeswoman for Filene's Basement.

The store runs the sale four times a year, but this time drew a record number of customers. She said some of the gowns retail elsewhere for \$3,000 or more.

"I once saw a Seasi for \$7,500, so you save big, but you go through a lot to get it," Boudrot said.

Many of the women camped out as early as three hours beforehand, bringing a team of friends and relatives to help in the search for the perfect dress.

It took a mere 30 seconds for the

entire inventory of 910 dresses to be pulled off the racks.

YOU PROBABLY think pagers are only good for herding executives from place to place. A Japanese farmer has found they're useful for herding cattle, too.

When it's time for the cows to come home, he dials the number of a pager hung on the lead cow's neck. The cow hears the beep and heads to the ranch, followed by the rest of the herd.

Shawna

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



The further we get from reality, the more we need stuff like this: it's a wedding, believe it or not. The happy occasion had all the necessary trappings: a bride (Monika Gladys Liston, left, wearing the virtual-reality veil) a groom (Hugh Hyunchoel Jo, right), guests, and in the center, a sort of pictorial translation of what they were attempting to do. The first-ever virtual reality wedding took place in - you guessed it - unreal San Francisco. Ah well, mazel tov from all of us here. (AP)

How can I stop my stepdaughter leaving home?

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
My husband, who was a widower when we married, died last year. Now my 16-year-old stepdaughter wants to leave home to live on her own. She's still in high school, and I know her father would have put his foot down.

But she says that I am not her real parent or her boss, and that she can do as she pleases. I am her legal guardian, but I don't want to put legal pressure on her. I would like to reach her somehow.

Morose Step-Mom in Mourning
Jerusalem

Dear Morose Step-Mom,
Reaching someone who has lost both parents and is walking a fine line between childhood and adulthood will take a lot of patience.

By insisting she wants to move out, your stepdaughter is saying she feels she no longer has a place in her own (your) home. She may also be crying out for proof that she is genuinely wanted. It's up to you to supply that proof.

Dear Ruthie,
A new couple recently moved into the building opposite my bedroom window.

The wife first caught my eye because of her youthful beauty and liveliness.

The problem is I can't stop thinking about her, and find myself spending more and more time at the window in the hope of catching a glimpse of her. My wife doesn't understand my frequent trips to the bedroom.

Am I having a late-life crisis or losing my mind, or what?

Window Watcher
Somewhere in Israel

Dear WW,
The fact that you're aware enough of your behavior to seek advice is a sign that you aren't losing your mind. Developing a

crush on a beautiful young bride is, in itself, no indication of instability. On the contrary. But becoming obsessed with someone you don't even know is.

You may be going through some sort of personal crisis, and this woman is a symbol of something churning away deep inside you. You must figure out what it is: If you can't do it on your own, you need professional help.

In the meantime, try staying away from the window. This woman is liable to think you're stalking her.

Dear Ruthie,
I have been living with my girlfriend for a year. We haven't discussed marriage yet.

But she has suddenly quit her job, saying she needs time for her painting, which got neglected because the bills had to be paid. I am afraid this means she assumes I can pay the bills now.

Money isn't a problem for me. But this kind of commitment ought not to be forced on me without my cooperation.

I don't want to hurt her feelings, and don't know what to do. I do love her.

Commitment Coerced
Tel Aviv

Dear CC,
All you have to do is tell your girlfriend what you've just told me. You haven't been hurtful, just honest. Perhaps a lack of communication between you led her to take this step without discussing it with you first.

When you don't lay your cards on the table, you leave lots of room for interpretation.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Home swapping network

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

FOR those who would like to exchange homes and possibly also cars with a family in another country, HomeLink International is a nonprofit organization with 25 member groups covering 40 countries. The organization publishes directories of homes for exchange in which members give a short description of their home, usually accompanied by a photo. It is represented locally by HomeLink Israel and the membership fee of NIS 250 includes the right to have your home listed in one of the organization's directories.

Dr. David Hamburger, who heads HomeLink Israel, says that the exchange involves a degree of mutual trust and that those who want to participate should be willing to invest a certain amount of time in writing letters and in preparing their homes for the exchange guests. For information, contact him at: 49 Rehov Sheshet Hayamin, Jerusalem 97804, tel. 02-812726, fax 02-811178.

NATOUR HAS begun promoting its winter packages, including an El Al flight to New York and four nights in a Manhattan hotel from \$817, with prices for six nights starting at \$881. A flight and four nights in London, with breakfast, starts at \$413, and a flight and four nights in Paris, from \$479. The prices are valid from November 1 through March 31.

BRITISH AIRWAYS is offering a tourist-class fare of \$799 round-trip to New York, with a possible stopover in London. The fare is valid until March 31, except for the Christmas season (December 15 to January 9), when it goes up

to \$899. The company is also offering its Club Europe business-class passengers to London a 50 percent reduction on a similar ticket for their spouse. This offer is valid until the end of November.

Meanwhile El Al is offering a winter round-trip fare to London of \$333 on its late-night flights. Lufthansa is to add a Friday morning flight between Frankfurt and Tel Aviv, starting October 30. This will bring to 14 the number of weekly flights to Israel.

BUDGET Rent a Car has announced that Israelis with foreign passports can arrange in Israel to pick up a car in Jordan at the Arava border crossing. The Jordanian franchise holder has also agreed to honor international driver's licenses issued in Israel. The cost of a day's car rental is \$60.

GROUP VISITS to Arab villages and Beduin encampments in Western Galilee are being offered by Kibbutz Lotan. A typical visit of four to six hours includes a tour of the village and local sites, meeting local people, a traditional meal in a home or Beduin tent, and entertainment by singers and dancers. The price per person is NIS 40. For information call Gal Koren, 06-787298, or 050-278742.

VISITORS to England seeking vegetarian food can buy *The Cruelty-Free Guide to London*, listing 130 restaurants, with sections on such destinations as Bath, Brighton and Oxford. The book is available at London bookshops or by mail: Cruelty-Free Living, 126 Churchfield Rd. London W3 6BS, tel. 81-723-4971, fax 81-723-4984.



Men massage each other's back after exercising in a Hanoi park. Some residents are worried new development in the city will destroy the old ways. (Reuters)

Hanoi's old charm in danger of fading

TRAVEL

BRUCE STANLEY

LIFE still beats with a medieval pulse in the crumbling warrens and crooked streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter.

Tinsmiths pound metal on Tin Street. In cramped shops, silk merchants and bamboo cutters work the same trades their ancestors did.

Sidewalk vendors squat behind pyramids of apples and baskets of roses. Women gather at curbside cisterns for fresh water and conversation.

Children shout and dart down cobbledstone alleys into hidden courtyards.

A 10-minute walk away, in the French Quarter, trees tower like canyon walls on either side of broad boulevards. Pastel villas built during the French colonial period stand serene behind walls.

Hanoi, like a bug in amber, extends the past, and is just now beginning to modernize.

After decades of war, peace in 1975 brought more years of au-

terity because of failed socialist policies and a US trade embargo that was not lifted until this year.

Finally, with free-market reforms that began in the late 1980s, foreign investors and property developers began to arrive.

As the Old Quarter's new rich build three- and four-story homes and foreign developers plan skyscraper hotels and office buildings, some people fear change is coming too fast.

"I'm happy to see the new houses because they are mainly nice, more comfortable, and that is what ordinary people long for," said Le Quoc, who works in a cinema production company.

"On the other hand, Hanoi has a substantial ancient heritage," Le Quoc said. "There is the one-pillared pagoda in the shape of a lotus leaf, and there's the Tortoise Tower... [at] risk of being mixed up with the modern construction."

THE CITY plans to evict resi-

dents of about 150 villas, most of which house several families, in order to refurbish the buildings and lease them to foreign companies as offices.

Small hotels aglow with blue and pink neon have sprouted next to dingy noodle-soup restaurants. The hotels offer well-stocked bars and fax service in neighborhoods where few people have running water and most families cook on a single charcoal burner.

A Singapore firm proposes a \$41 million, 20-story commercial project at the edge of the Lake of the Restored Sword downtown. It would dwarf the buildings that now line the shore, where many people exercise at sunrise and relax with checkers and tea.

A government plan calls for preserving the historic center of

Hanoi by diverting large-scale construction to outlying areas.

But some residents say the city needs all the investment it can get, and city officials have ignored aspects of the plan in order to approve construction of some downtown highrises.

AS INCOMES rise, more people buy color TVs and motorcycles. Cars and motorbikes of the new middle-class hurry down streets once noted for the leisurely glide of bicycles and pedicabs.

In a city with few working traffic lights, many intersections have become chaos. Bartered Soviet Volga sedans, surplus olive-green jeeps from the People's Army and new Japanese cars straddle the center line, honking at pedicabs on either side that haul everything from bedroom furniture to hog carcasses.

Unregulated traffic from six streets pours into the plaza facing the beautiful Opera House, which was built in 1911 and now is ho-

to the national symphony orchestra.

There is good pizza at Hanoi's first Italian restaurant. A modern disco attracts foreign and wealthy Vietnamese.

Japanese-style karaoke bars where customers sing to record music, are adorned with twinkling lights.

Young couples starved for privacy can pass an intimate hour in one of the innumerable rooms away from prying eyes.

As the economic boom widens the gap between rich and poor, some of the poor grow desperate. Monks at the West Lake pagoda display a framed photograph of five women arrested for stealing food left as an offering to Buddha.

But there is plenty of communist-style discipline left and violent street crime is rare. Hanoi may be Asia's safest capital.

Male understanding: Silences between men

BOOKS

RICHARD EDER

THE VILLAGE, by David Mamet. Little, Brown. 248 pp. \$21.95.

DAVID Mamet uses the people and voices in *The Village* as if he were hanging stars in the sky; not to illuminate themselves but to reveal the world by their faint light. As with the speakers in *Under Milk Wood* and *Our Town*, and despite their savory individuality, it is a chorus and not an individual effect that he aims at.

Like Liareggub and Grovers Corners, Mamet's unnamed northern New England village is an emblem of human life and community; at once universal and imprinted with the author's intimate spoor. Dylan Thomas's nutshell cosmos vibrated to Welsh jokes and inkblots; Thornton Wilder's was American Gothic with a small smile.

Mamet's is a place of male exploits, comradeship and anguish, with women as wraiths. Iron David's epiphanies take place in a garage, a hardware store, hunting, fishing, cutting cordwood, sniffing out the weather, navigating gun fairs and in bitten-off rumination larded with sociable silences.

Half a dozen characters and story fragments percolate through *The Village*. Among them are Dickie, a melancholy hardware-store proprietor whose failing business epitomizes the decline of local life; Lynn, an old hunter; Trooper, the peace officer; and

Martin, who runs the local garage and is the self-conscious upholder and celebrator of the spirit of the place.

A more self-conscious and less secure celebrator is Henry, who threads his way through the book, watching, wondering and speculating. He is the outsider who comes to settle and can't quite, the intellectual who wants to be an adept countryman, a spirit of air who works at becoming a spirit of earth, and might almost succeed except that he spins theories around everything he does.

Henry is approximately an alter ego for Mamet, a playwright and screenwriter who has published numerous sketches on many of the country themes and male mysteries that are fictionalized in *The Village*. Henry splits wood and takes such esthetic pleasure in it that a disconcerting abstraction envelops the fine concreteness of the writing.

Equipped with all the right gear and studied craft, he goes skiing in the woods, taking a Hemingway-like pride in his outdoors expertise. He gets lost, wet, near-frozen; a Hemingway who shoots himself in the foot. In something close to self-pity, he finally reaches the lit kitchen window through which he sees his wife — a near-widow, did she but realize — obliviously chatting on the telephone.

He won't let her realize; a large silence has come over them. Rather than talk to her, he pre-

fers to chop wood, to try to hang out with the men at the hardware store and to warm himself with his own wool-gathered images. She waits in bed for him; he starts to tell her of an incident during the day, forgets what he is saying, goes to dream in the bathroom. The marriage is not so much shattering as evaporating.

Henry has his good moments as a kind of holy fool. There is a passage where he makes his way into an auction tent with a container of coffee, a doughnut and a prospectus; all three in peril as he teeters his chair on the hummocky ground. Installed, he feels safe, a real person; nobody will disturb him or question the congruity of his being there.

A little insecurity goes a long way, though; especially in view of Henry's overcompensating efforts to be expert and at macho ease with guns, axes, fishing rods and the locals. More Catholic than the pope, we may think, or perhaps more Hunnish than Attila. The ironies are fine, but Mamet is not simply being ironic. He is, in fact, as uneasy as his characters; it is an unease that lies at the heart of his distinctive style.

Mamet's writing is infused with a poetry that manages to be simultaneously hard-boiled and delicate. The two extremes sound

against each other with a striking but sometimes disconcerting hollow in the middle.

The book's best moments come when the author goes directly to some of the other villagers and tells their fragments of story. Mamet's gift for the awkward poetry of real speech shines as an old man recalls Charlie Taggart, who knew not only what the weather was going to do but how birds and deer and fish would respond to it: "He would say, 'Goin' up Loach Dam for pickerel,' and we would go up there. B'fore a rain. Eh? Get there, nobody had took nothing out of the lake, all that morning. Clouds coming in, fr the North."

"We go out. He ups, and I don't know, what the hell he puts on his line. Thwap. There's your fish. Bait. He was usin' some kind of paste. Baits up again. Thwap. 'Nother pickerel, so on. Weather front, closing in.... Reels his line in, shuts the tackle box, 'that's it.' Nobody caught a fish, b'fore or after we was there. N'that's a small thing."

Martin, who runs the garage, has a bent for speculative lyricism that is distinctly akin to Henry's. But the difference is very great. Martin belongs to the place; the

phrase with which he acknowledges the beauty of a climb is rooted in him as the generation hunting wisdom that have a crutch motionless an entire day for a deer to appear by a stream that he has studied.

And when it does, he thinks "Well all I have done is wait you, but I have waited for you. There is a moving portrait of failing, slow-moving, meditative taking comfort from well-stocked wood stove in hardware store where a custodian will come in for 79 cents of n and charge it. He and his wife calculates, have been working 81 cents an hour each; the bill will foreclose.

In many of the encounters in *The Village*, it is the scene itself rather than what is said, counts. Also what is unsaid. It is the silences between the uncompleted sentence, the spoken reply, that constitute understanding; in contrast to verbal explicitness that marks understanding among women. Mamet's women are shadows, barely reflected in the men's talk. Talk of women as if telling ghost stories, as if exorcising a fear. (Los Angeles Times)

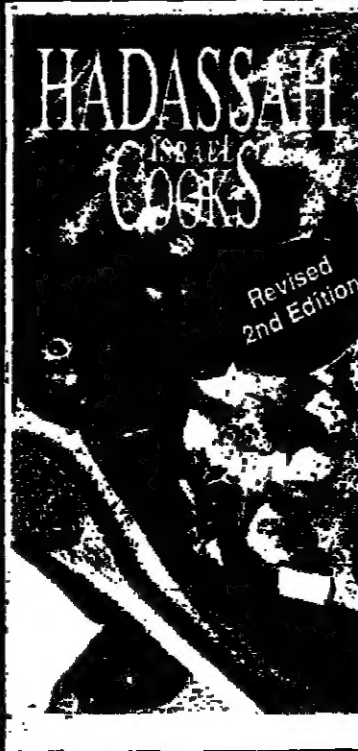
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Protecting your bicycle from the elements when storing it on your patio, balcony or in the yard has always been a problem. But now there's a solution! The Ride On Bicycle Cover, made of a waterproof synthetic fabric, protects your bike from the winter rains and summer dew as well as keeping it dust-free all year round. Simply slip the cover over your bike and seal it with the velcro closure. Fits all styles of adult bicycles. Color: White.

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To: **THE JERUSALEM POST**, c/o The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Tel. 02-241282. Please send me a Ride On Bicycle Cover. Enclosed is my check payable to The Jerusalem Post for NIS 59.00 ea. Credit card orders accepted by phone.

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Hadassah-Israel presents this cookbook whose recipes represent the cultural diversity of Israel and the Hadassah chapters in Israel. Over 300 pages of delicious recipes covering the entire culinary experience...from appetizers to desserts. Each section divider also contains a slip pocket enabling you to enclose new recipes as you acquire them. Includes an appendix with cooking conversions, charts, tips and index. Published by Hadassah Israel. Printed at the Hadassah College of Technology. Softcover, spiral-bound.

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A UNIQUE GIFT - A NEW RELEASE ON CD MAX STERN: HAAZINU

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Danish delight: From Heering to halibut

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISEL



of designer Gideon Oberson's hallmarks are exquisite veiled laces, as shown here on an organza evening blouse.

Young and provocative

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

COMFORT is the thing, according to designer Gideon Oberson, showing off his Fall/Winter collection. "We don't want to look prim & proper," he told a press conference. "We'd much rather be and feel more comfortable h ourselves."

Oberson's concept of comfort is tailoring and skirts which are very short or very long. "or day wear Oberson prefers miniskirts topped by ankle-length cashmere coats. More formal occasions demand certain drama, and Oberson is to the challenge with double che maxiskirts in quilted chiffon, velvet, lamé or organza. The evening outfits are as always distinguished by exquisite jeweled brooches, ornately embroidered brooches, magnificent gold buckles & eye-catching decorative gold tones.

Dominated by black and camel, according to Oberson are the most important winter colors, the generally pure-wool collection also features vibrant

shades of red, mustard, petrol blue and turquoise as well as positive-negative effects in large and small checks which Oberson chose to pair in mix-and-match separates "because we don't want too much uniformity."

Vests and blazer-style jackets with textured knit sleeves abound, as do flounced velvet minidresses.

The curved and geometric architectural seaming which is integral to Oberson's fashion signature, though less prevalent in this collection than in seasons past, nonetheless make an impact.

Both pants and skirts are high waisted, with belts threaded at natural waist level.

Catering more to the young, gamin femme fatale than to the older woman, Oberson appears to be more intent on creating a provocative rather than a sophisticated image.

Most of the outfits were worn with chunky-heeled ankle or knee-grazing boots - yet another sign that comfort is high on the agenda.

BLUE SQUARE Co-op's Danish Food Festival, which opened yesterday, has almost everything you need for a *kold bord* ("cold table"), which is the Danish equivalent of the Swedish *smorgasbord*.

There is no Danish ham, of course, nor meat of any kind. But there is a wide selection of fish and cheese, all with kashrut certification of the Chief Rabbinate of Denmark.

There are also a dozen types of kosher packaged cakes and an assortment of tinned cookies. Alcoholic beverages include the famed Cherry Heering liqueur and Carlsberg and Tuborg beers, regularly imported to Israel by Coca Cola.

The Danish Food Festival, the first held here, is under the patronage of the Danish Embassy, with the cooperation of the Friends of Denmark in Israel. The event was timed to coincide with the 51st anniversary this month of the rescue of Denmark's Jews by the Danish people.

The festival encompasses all 70 Super Co-ops and Hyper Co-ops from Hadera to Eilat, plus Blue Square's Hyper Co-op in Jerusalem.

It will continue for one month, during which the chain expects to sell NIS 6 million worth of Danish goods. There are some housewares as well as foods.

Sample prices are as follows: Cheeses: Svenbo, NIS 5.90 per 100 grams; Danbo and Havarti, NIS 4.90 per 100 grams; Danish Brie, NIS 10.90 for 125 grams.

Fish: smoked halibut and (Norwegian) smoked salmon, NIS 22.90 per 100 grams; canned mackerel fillets in white wine, NIS 7.95 for 180 grams; canned smoked cod liver, NIS 6.95 for 121 grams.

Cakes: pound cakes (chocolate or raisin/orange flavor) NIS 7.45 for 350 grams; dark chocolate cake, NIS 5.45 for 250 grams.

Beverages: Cherry Heering liqueur, NIS 46.90 per half-liter; Kirsberry, NIS 39.95 per liter.

Ten flights to Copenhagen, donated by the Scandinavian airline SAS, will be raffled off to customers who buy Danish goods.

OLAM KATAN ("Small World") is a delightful video cassette of children's songs from around the world, all translated or adapted into Hebrew. The songs represent 16 countries, plus Israel. The melodies were arranged by Nurit Hirsh, the words are by Michal Hazon.

Among the songs which will sound most familiar to readers are "Sing a Song of Sixpence," "Do You Know the Muffin Man?" "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and

"Au Clair de la Lune."

The 45-minute cassette was produced by MCT. It retails in shops for NIS 57, and is available as an audio compact disc for NIS 39.90. In both cases, the words of the songs are included in a printed leaflet, in non-voiced Hebrew.

The video cassette is also available from the Books Department of The Jerusalem Post, for NIS 52 for the PAL TV/video system (as used here) and NIS 62 for the NTSC version suitable for North America. Mailing is free in Israel, and NIS 10 abroad. Orders can be placed by phone, 02-241282; fax, 02-241212, or mail, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

AN INNOVATIVE Israeli product for small children is making deep inroads in the American marketplace and is almost certain to be one of the hits of the upcoming holiday season.

ComfyKeyboard is a bright-colored children's keyboard which attaches to an ordinary adult computer and enables youngsters two to six to interact with the animated characters on the monitor. It comes with a basic set of software and requires an IBM or IBM-compatible computer of 386 and up, with a VGA or SVGA color graphic monitor, and a voice card.

The characters - which appear in all Comfy software - are a little boy called Comfy, his dog Jumpy, Buddy the bear, Feely the elephant, and a snail named Snailly.

The basic disk, sold with the keyboard, comes in a choice of Hebrew or English here (plus French, Spanish and German for export). It contains four animated stories which run a total of 45 minutes - if you let it run undisturbed. But kids don't. The large keys and dials are user-friendly to little hands.

Touching one of the color-keys, for instance, will add highlights of that color to the picture on the screen. Touching a particular weather key will put a shining sun in the picture; touching another will make it rain or snow. Touching the musical instrument buttons changes the sound track.

Children can also pick up a red telephone and "talk" to a particular character.

The initial kit with the ComfyKeyboard and basic film costs NIS 320 to NIS 350 in Israel, and about \$100 in the U.S., including at the prestigious FAO Schwarz toy stores.

At the Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago this June, Comfy was voted one of the 10 recommended new computer programs. The Israeli product has had favorable attention in the American media, from *Newsweek* to *NBC's Today show*.



Danish volunteers from Kibbutz Ein Shemer model traditional rural dress from southern Denmark to kick off the Blue Square Co-op's Danish Food Festival (above); a child learns how to use the ComfyKeyboard, which attaches to any IBM or IBM-compatible computer (on the screen is Feely the Elephant).

Comfy Interactive Movies Ltd. is the Tel Aviv-based private company which makes the keyboard and software. It is headed by 24-year-old Itai Kohavi, who initiated the idea of the kiddie keyboard, and one of its principal program writers is Barak Ori, 26.

A new program, due out next week, is "Christmas in ComfyLand," available in English only. The following week is to see the release of "The Great Concert," in Hebrew and English. These additional disks will cost NIS 100 to NIS 120.

On the local market, the Comfy products are available at the Hamashbir and Steinitz chains, and at toy and computer stores, including the Bug chain. The distributor for Israel is Bug Multisystems, 03-579-4711. In the U.S., the distributor is Comfy Interactive Movies of Sunnyvale, California.



tel. 1-800-99-COMFY.
The ComfyKeyboard carries a one-year guarantee.

SUPER-PHARM, in conjunction with the Jewish National Fund, is honoring the newborns of the Hebrew year 5755, whom the chain calls "children born to the peace process."

The pharmacy chain has contracted for 50,000 trees in JNF forests, which are to bear the

names of babies whose parents present a birth certificate to any Super-Pharm branch. Parents will receive a tree-planting certificate from Super-Pharm and the JNF.

THE SUPER-SOL chain is assisting this year's fund drive of the Israel Cancer Association. Today and tomorrow, customers can make contributions at checkout counters of any Super-Sol, Hyper-Sol or Hagal Hayarok store.

Experienced drivers wanted: Otherwise, car drives you

MOTORING

JOEL GORDIN

RD ESCORT 16V RS 2000. En-1, 1998 cc. Horsepower: 150 at 5000 rpm. Torque: 19.4 at 4,500cc. 1st gear manual.

Acceleration: 0-100kph in 8.2 secs. Maximum speed: 206 kph. Gas consumption: 15.8km/l at 90kph; 10.3 km/l in town.

Price: NIS 94,367.

CHAMPAGNE corks popped recently at the Tel Aviv showrooms of Israel Automobile Company Ltd., the Ford dealers, as two new Es-models were launched here. They were the 1.8-liter Cabrio (convertible) and the "family" RS 2000. "RS" stands for "Rally Sport" and this model has

led up some impressive performances in prestigious races, including first place in the World Rally Championships.

he RS, as it is popularly known, is not likely to sell as well

here as the Mitsubishi Supercar, the Subaru Grand Leone or the Daihatsu Applause, because it's a car for those who want more than simply to go places in comfort. It's for those who value engine performance, enjoy driving and, most important, know how to drive. In the wrong hands, it could be a disaster.

The designers have not tried to kid anybody - there's no mistaking that the RS looks like a Ford Escort. But you don't need a second glance to see it's a far cry from the garden-variety Escort used here as a family car. The RS has an attractive, powerful, rugged, low-slung appearance, topped off by a prominent spoiler on the trunk. Open one of the two doors, and there are low-slung seats, a short shift and padded steering wheel.

However, the RS does not attempt to be a poor man's Ferrari à la Toyota Celica or Subaru SVX. It can rightly be classified as a family sports car. There's no compromise on comfort. Two doors



The Ford Escort 16V RS 2000 is a family sports car, with no compromise on comfort.

maybe, but there's plenty of room for five adults. The trunk is part of the hatchback, and the rear seat can be folded forward for more loading room.

Engine performance freaks don't like to be distracted by gimmicks and gizmos and the RS is true to form. There's a factory-made air-conditioner and central

door locking, but nothing like cruise control, on-board computer, electrical seat adjustments. The side-view mirrors must be adjusted manually.

The real strength of the RS is all under the hood. The manufacturer's acceleration figure of 0-100 kph in less than 9 seconds can easily be verified and speaks for itself. However, more impressive than the sheer power is the torque. Even a gentle press on the gas pedal will send all the 150 horses galloping into action from almost any speed, in any of the gears. This is one of the most flexible engines on the road. Just an example: In a normal sports car of this power, the fifth gear usually acts as an overdrive. If you want to accelerate from any speed in fifth, you need to change down. In the RS, however, you can spur away in fifth without changing shift, even from a cruising speed of 70 or 80 kph.

The low body and the 195/50 sporting tires give great grip. But if the driver does not hold the steering wheel securely while giving gas, even from a stationary position, the power of the take-off could cause nasty surprises. Ford has placed great emphasis

on both active and passive safety. ABS (anti-skid) braking is standard, and driver and passengers sit in a rigid, protected cage. However, the model I tested did not have airbags.

For the past few years, Israel Automobile's car sales depended on the Escort and its smaller sister, the Fiesta, and neither could compete with the sleek of Japanese family cars that came on the market at the end of the last decade.

In the first six months of this year the firm has doubled its sales in the equivalent period last year, partly because of the introduction here of Mondeo, one of the most important cars manufactured in Europe last year. Escort and Fiesta sales were also boosted when the new ZETEC engine was introduced into these formerly wimpy models, boosting horsepower and other performance levels.

Most important, new thinking has been developed on marketing. The company is offering potential buyers a range appealing to every taste, and RS is a fine example.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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OPEN BOOKCASE - records case, with photograph, Philips record player with speakers, TV trolley, chair, paintings, radio. NIS 300. 02-826795.
WOMEN'S SLIPPERS - size 7, Daniele Green. NIS 100; American videos, *Home Alone* and *E.T.*, new. NIS 50 each. 02-851040. NS.
SMOKE ALARM - powerful British standard model, easily installed, battery included, new in carton. NIS 40. 02-318125. NS.
MEN'S LEATHER JACKET - gray, NIS 80; polyester cream lace double bedspread. NIS 80. 02-244528. NS.
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ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA - in good condition. 02-438220.
ISRAELI MUSIUM CATALOG - "Twelve Pages of the Genius." 02-250449.
"CONSUMER REPORTS" - Angus 1992, or article on food processors, and quilt craft magazines before October '94 to copy instructions for sampler quilt. 02-765024. NS.
RCA RABINIC MEMBER REGISTRY - recent; rabbi will trade 1993 RA Conservative Rabbi Directory. No solicitations. 02-78008. NS.
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CAR SEAT - booster, playpen, toilet seat. 02-525888, 02-818499.
GOOD USED COUCH - and/or washing machine. 02-665923.
OLD CLOCKS - 02-837888.
CLASS 'A' STEREO AMPLIFIER - 50 WPC or more. 02-617094.
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LARGE RUG - in good condition, 3+ meter.

WANTED
TOY KITCHEN - doll's high chair, dressing table. 02-261877.
"VANITY FAIR" - dated 8-12 months back. *National Enquirer* dated August 23, 1994. 02-6424970.
TV WASHING MACHINE - cooker in perfect condition; free-standing mirror. Call-sea screen. 02-6619629.
ANYBODY WHO CONSIDERS HIMSELF

to 2+ meter, no limit to price. 02-580212.
HELP FOR PHONEMATE 7288 - answering machine. We lost the manual. 02-716927.
STORKROOM FOR OLIM - seeks electrical appliances, household goods (pots, pans, dishes, etc.), old furniture, etc. 25 Givat Shaul St., 9-5. 513524. Will collect.

LOST AND FOUND
LOST - Engraved silver cigarette case (sentimental value); lost at yard sale, Friday, October 7. Bring to AACI or call 02-617151, Janet.

LOST - small green Humash Bereishit. Hebrew/English. 02-865728. NS.

PETS

FIND A FRIEND FOR LIFE - JSPCA adoption event tomorrow, Friday, October 21, 12:30-3, at the Natural History Museum, Rehov Haganit, Jerusalem. Veterinarians on site. Dogs, cats, puppies and kittens eager to give and receive love. Sorry, no strays can be accepted at the event. Details 02-851531.
RABBIT CAGE - and accessories, NIS 75; white rabbit, NIS 25. 02-852693. NS.

Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

BARGAIN BASEMENT - FREE CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN BASEMENT accepts ads of up to 20 words free of charge on these conditions: Only one ad per household per week. THE LIMIT per ad in the "offers" section is a TOTAL NOT accepted: business offers; apartment ads; real estate; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relationships. Ads must be printed in English and submitted on the attached coupon. ADS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX. The right to reject or edit any ad is reserved.

Ads must reach The Bargain Basement, The Jerusalem Post, Rehov Yirmiyahu in Ramat (POB 81, Jerusalem 91 000) by NOON Sunday of the week of publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.

The price of each item must be stated

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Tannie Shannon, left, carries his 11-month-old granddaughter wrapped in plastic while his wife, Francis, leads their English sheepdog away from their home in Conroe, Texas yesterday. At least 10,000 have been driven from their homes in eastern Texas by widespread flooding. Eight persons have died and two others are missing and presumed drowned. (AP)

More rain falls on flooded southeast Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — It wasn't hard for Edna Mae Montgomery to decide to flee her flooded home.

"When it starts getting in my bed, you know it's time to leave," the 65-year-old woman said Tuesday night, sitting on a cot in one of 42 shelters set up throughout southeast Texas.

Montgomery was among about 10,000 people driven from their homes by widespread flooding, the result of heavy, unrelenting rain that began on Sunday. At least eight people have died, including a two-month-old baby.

Two other people were missing and presumed drowned.

Strong thunderstorms early Wednesday dumped up to seven inches (18 cms) of rain in two hours in Uvalde County, southwest of San Antonio. Winds gusted to 93 mph and more than two inches (5 cms) of rain fell further south in Alice, causing flash flooding overnight.

Nearly the entire eastern half of Texas was under a flood watch or warning yesterday, the fourth day of rain. Up to 28 inches (71 cms) had fallen in the Houston area in the three days

ending Tuesday.

"There's very little hope it's going to stop for a while," said Gov. Ann Richards. "What we're seeing now is just a part of it."

Richards designated 48 counties as state disaster areas and President Clinton declared 26 counties federal disaster areas, making them eligible for federal aid.

Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Highway Administration were in Texas yesterday morning to tour the flooded areas, FEMA spokesman Morrie Goodman said.

Pakistani soldiers patrol Karachi's troubled streets

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A Muslim cleric and his two children were shot and killed yesterday, the latest victims in a killing spree this week has left at least 29 people dead.

The 40-year-old cleric, of the majority Sunni sect of Islam, and his children, age 6 and 7, were shot in their home attached to a mosque. The killing was revenge for Monday's drive-by shooting of five Shi'ite sect worshippers, police said.

The blood-letting began Monday when gunmen took religious

political and ethnic feuds to the streets. Soldiers in machine-gun mounted jeeps patrolled Karachi yesterday in an effort to quell the violence.

"People are becoming increasingly violent, partially because of the free and unchecked flow of arms in the city," said Karachi Police Chief Javed Iqbal.

Militant Sunni and Shi'ite groups have sprung up in recent years and they regularly clash, killing dozens in Karachi in recent months.

About 80 Sunni militants and

several of their Shi'ite rivals were arrested late Tuesday and early yesterday morning, said Irfan Hussein, a spokesman for the Sunni group.

Hussein's organization, called the Soldiers of the Friends of the Prophet, is the largest of the Sunni militant groups and is usually blamed for attacks against Shi'ites.

The recent shootings were the year's worst round of bloodletting in this southern port city. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who took power a year ago yesterday,

has so far refused to comment on the violence.

Two of Bhutto's party workers were among the dead. Police blamed the deaths on members of the conservative opposition, the Pakistan Muslim League, which also suffered two deaths.

Several people died in gun battles between rival factions of the militant group representing Muslims who moved to Pakistan when the Indian subcontinent was partitioned in 1947. The movement is demanding official recognition as an ethnic group.

Chechen leader seizes opposition stronghold

AT least 25 people were killed yesterday when forces loyal to the separatist leader of Russia's Chechnya region seized a key rebel base in a fierce, tank-backed offensive.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev had earlier sent hundreds of his men storming into the town of Urus-Martan, south of the capital Grozny.

His officials later said the town, a key base of the Moscow-backed opposition, had been captured by government forces by 1 p.m.

"At the moment, bodies are being collected and those armed opposition forces who managed to get away are being hunted," Interfax news agency quoted an Interior Ministry official as saying.

Interfax news agency said some 30 tanks and armored vehicles with about 2,000 fighters took part in the offensive on Dudayev's side. The opposition, according to the agency, had several hundred fighters and 30 pieces of armor.

The attack on the base, where the splintering opposition has concentrated most of its forces to attack Grozny, may deal a sharp

FARKHADKERIMOV
URUS-MARTAN, Russia

blow to rebel plans to topple Dudayev soon.

Urus-Martan is the main base of anti-Dudayev fighters under the leadership of Bislan Gantemirov.

At least 15 bodies could be seen in Urus-Martan's central street, with walls pitted by bullet marks and some buildings damaged by shells. It was not clear whether these victims were government soldiers or opposition fighters.

A local hospital doctor said 44 people had been brought in with serious wounds, 10 of whom had died later.

Interfax news agency said that a hospital in the village of Znamenskoye, opposition headquarters on the border with Russia, was filled with wounded. There were no reports that Znamenskoye was attacked.

Shooting still echoed throughout the town in mid-afternoon but Dudayev's military commanders said this was because opposition fighters were still being flushed out.

Tass said Dudayev's force started massing around Tolstiy Yurt, power base of former Soviet parliament chief Ruslan Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen and one of the anti-Dudayev opposition leaders.

Dudayev's offensive followed surprise opposition attack on Grozny last week in which it units, supported by military helicopters, seized several city suburbs.

The opposition later withdrew its forces to Urus-Martan with Gantemirov saying Saturday's attack was just a training run. Dudayev hailed it as a victory for his forces.

The fractured Chechen opposition has received Moscow's explicit backing in its attempts to oust Dudayev, a former Soviet air force general who has led his republic of one million people on a path of unilateral independence from Russia.

Russia has strong commercial interest in the north Caucasus region, a vital oil-refining center and a pipeline junction. It makes no secret of its desire to see Dudayev's downfall. (Reuters)

UN running out of fuel under Bosnian Serb ban

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — UN peacekeepers in Bosnia said yesterday that they were running out of fuel because of a Serb blockade and warned of "extremely strong action" to rectify the situation.

They also admitted they were failing to persuade Moslem-led Bosnian government troops to leave a demilitarized zone outside Sarajevo by a deadline set by Bosnian Serb forces who are threatening to intervene themselves.

Thant Myint-U, spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), told reporters the fuel shortage was critical and "is reaching the point where our ability to carry out our operations is being threatened."

Bosnian Serbs have obstructed UN fuel and aid convoys in retaliation for UN sanctions since they rejected a Big Power peace plan in August.

They have obstructed convoys crossing their territory to Sarajevo and Moslem enclaves in eastern

Bosnia, singling out fuel shipment for particular harassment.

"The restrictions and the denial of clearances for more convoys are completely unacceptable and will result in extremely strong action from UNPROFOR if not immediately corrected," Thant said.

He did not specify what kind of action was planned by UN which has exasperated its NATO partners by refusing to use air strikes more freely to punish the Serbs for attacks on its peacekeepers.

UNPROFOR considered calling in NATO warplanes when Bosnian Serb forces attacked a UN aid convoy on Tuesday, killing a driver, but in the end did nothing. It also did not react when the Serbs seized five truckloads of medicines on Monday.

NATO ambassadors met in Brussels to consider the UN's refusal to give the alliance a freer rein. New Secretary General Willy Claes spoke of the danger of "a worsening of the [Bosnian] conflict, both in humanitarian and military terms."

Iraqi ministry bombed

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — A powerful bomb blast damaged Iraq's Ministry of Religious Affairs in the capital Baghdad yesterday, local television station said.

The report showed several people being loaded into ambulances outside the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs after the morning explosion but no official casualty figure was available.

Nearly houses were also damaged, it said.

Foreign reporters were not allowed to visit the scene and no damage could be seen from a distance. Several hours after the blast the official news agency INA had made no mention of it.

Three people have been wounded and one killed in similar blast in Baghdad in the past year.

The TV station, which is run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, did not blame any group for the bombing.

But the government has blamed Iranian agents for previous attacks.

A Tehran government delegation is due in Baghdad on Saturday to discuss improving ties between the two neighbors, who fought a war from 1980 to 1988 in which tens of thousands of people were killed.

At least two scheduled Iran-Iraq meetings have been called off at short notice over the last year. Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met last month.

Family wants missing earl declared dead

LONDON (Reuters) — The family of Lord Lucan, a British earl who vanished 20 years ago after the murder of his children's nanny, has launched a legal bid to have him officially declared dead. Legal sources said yesterday.

The move, to be initiated by family lawyers in the High Court, would clear the way for his children to inherit his estate and put his tax affairs in order. But "Lucky Lucan" could still stand trial for murder if he was ever found.

Lucan is accused of beating to death his children's nanny, Sandra Rivett, and attempting to kill his wife Veronica at their elegant London home on November 7, 1974.

Police say they have kept the file open on one of Britain's most notorious missing person cases and are still checking any reported sightings of the mustachioed earl.

There is no evidence that Lord Lucan is dead and he still has an open file, a police spokesman said. "The investigation is still going on."

Suspect in Mogadishu hijacking arrested

OSLO (AP) — A woman suspected in the 1977 hijacking of a German airliner has been arrested in Norway, Oslo police said yesterday.

Germany has requested the extradition of the woman, whose name is not being released by police. Per Jarle Hellevik of the Oslo police said. He would not offer any other details.

Norwegian news reports, citing a report in the German newspaper Bild-Zeitung, said a woman using the name Soraya Ansari had been arrested by the Norwegian police. The reports said she was wanted in connection with the hijacking of a Lufthansa airliner to Somalia.

Diana takes break from furor with trip to US

LONDON — Leaving behind a trail of tell-all books, bare-your-soul television interviews and a national debate on whether she'll be getting divorced, Princess Diana left yesterday for a short break in the United States.

Diana, 33, was driven on to the airport runway to board a scheduled British Airways flight to New York.

News reports said she was headed to Washington to stay with Lucia Flecha de Lima, a close friend who is the wife of the Brazilian ambassador to the United States. Buckingham Palace said it had no details because the trip was private.

Diana, in a charcoal gray skirt and matching jacket, smiled at a dozen airport workers who applauded her. One shouted, "Good Luck, Di," as she was escorted up the steps to the plane.

Diana will stay in Washington through the weekend, the British news agency Press Association reported.

While she is away, her estranged husband is taking their sons, William, 12, and Harry, 10, to Balmoral Castle, Queen Elizabeth's home in Scotland, for a weekend of heart-to-heart talks.

Diana returns next week for the remainder of the boys' half-term holiday from their boarding school. Newspapers said both parents were concerned that the furor over their broken marriage would badly affect the boys. Psychologists say the princes could become the biggest victims of the bitter bickering between their parents.

Diana's trip would keep her out of town when London's Sunday Times publishes the second installment of the authorized biography of her husband, Prince Charles.

The first installment of the *Prince of Wales*, by Jonathan Dimbleby, said the prince never loved Diana and was forced into marrying her by his domineering father. It created a sensation.

Earlier, the *Daily Mirror* said a

divorce was being held up because Diana wants to keep her title Her Royal Highness.

The *Daily Mirror* quoted an unnamed palace source as saying: "The big bone of contention is Diana's future style and status."

Under the headline "Bully Phil's revenge on Di," the *Daily Mirror* said Prince Philip wants Diana stripped of the title if she gets divorced, while the queen says she could keep it.

"Her Majesty just wants peace and quiet," the newspaper said.

An opinion poll yesterday in the *Daily Mirror* showed an overwhelming number of Britons now believe Diana should divorce Charles and put an end to the scandals that have rocked the Royal Family.

The poll was the first since Charles revealed in the authorized biography that he was forced into a hollow charade of a marriage by his domineering father, the Duke of Edinburgh.

It showed 82 percent now favored a divorce, almost double the figure in a similar poll four months ago.

More than one in three people said they thought Charles was unfit to be king after the biggest crisis to hit the House of Windsor since King Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

Charles and Diana united through their lawyers on Tuesday to deny French press reports that they have agreed to a divorce or have discussed a financial settlement which would make Diana a multi-millionaire.

Politicians from left and right agreed the time had come to end the bickering that has brought the 1,000-year-old monarchy into such disrepute.

"There must be a divorce. Charles and Diana are becoming objects of derision throughout the world, a national embarrassment," Paul Flynn of the opposition Labor Party said. (Reuters)

Queen a hit in St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II arrived in Russia's former imperial capital yesterday and immediately discovered that British royalty is a hit even with the younger generation.

About 1,000 enthusiastic students thronged the outside of an auditorium at St. Petersburg University, Russia's oldest, disappointed they didn't have passes but determined to get a glimpse of royalty.

As if they thought the visitor

was Queen, the rock group, a few dozen girls even tried to sneak in through the press gallery and had to be pushed out forcefully by security.

"Let us go!" one student shouted. "The queen wanted to see students. Only bald and old people are in the hall."

About 500 people, mostly faculty and other staff from the university of 12,000 students, filled the auditorium to greet the queen after her arrival from Moscow.



A Boeing 747-300 sits with its nose down at Sydney Airport yesterday after its front landing gear collapsed while making an emergency landing. The plane returned to Sydney after one of its engines failed. All 272 people on board escaped injury. (AP)

First-ever book by a pope expected to be best-seller

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The first book ever published by a pope came out yesterday, with Pope John Paul II recalling his Jewish friendships as a boy in Poland before the Holocaust and sharply condemning abortion as among threats to society in the current "culture of death."

Crossing the Threshold of Hope contains personal reflections by John Paul on the papacy, religion and the role of the Roman Catholic Church in the world.

"It ought to be a best seller," said Archbishop William Keeler of Baltimore, president of the US National Conference of Catholic Bishops at the Vatican launching of the English language edition, part of the fanfare being sounded by church leaders before it hits bookstores today in 21 languages in 35 countries.

The book contains no major pronouncements, but the writing and publication is a highly unusual event. The book was written while John Paul was pope and targets a general audience.

Alfred A. Knopf, which reportedly paid \$6 million for the English-language rights, said more than one million copies of the 229-page book will go on sale immediately in the United States.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro said all royalties will go to a charity designated by John Paul. He estimated the pope will get 45 percent of the sale of foreign rights by his Italian publisher, Mondadori.

His experiences as a young man

in Poland when World War II broke out clearly shape many of his views.

In a chapter on Judaism, he wrote: "I remember, above all, the Wadowice elementary school, where at least a fourth of the pupils in my class were Jewish. I should mention my friendship at school with one of them, Jerzy Kluger — a friendship that has lasted from my school days to the present."

"I can vividly remember the Jews who gathered every Saturday at the synagogue behind our school. Both religious groups, Catholics and Jews, were united, I presume, by the awareness that they prayed to the same God."

The Wadowice synagogue was destroyed by the Nazis during the war. A plaque remembers the Jews who used to worship there.

With World War II, he wrote, came concentration camps and systematic extermination. "First and foremost, the sons and daughters of the Jewish nation were condemned for no other reason than that they were Jewish."

Of the Vatican's formal recognition of Israel in December, more than four decades after the founding of the Jewish state, John Paul wrote, "It is important to reaffirm that I myself never had any doubts in this regard."

Vittorio Messori, an Italian journalist, says in a preface that the book was inspired by 20 questions he submitted in advance of a television interview for the 15th anniversary of John Paul's papacy a year ago.

Excerpts from John Paul II's book

VATICAN CITY — Following are excerpts from Pope John Paul's book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, which goes on sale today.

ON JEWS:

"This extraordinary people continues to bear signs of its divine election... Perhaps because of this, Israel has become more similar to the Son of man, who, according to the flesh was a son of Israel. The 2,000th anniversary of His (Christ's) coming to the world will be a celebration for Jews as well."

ON THE HOLOCAUST:

"Auschwitz, perhaps the most meaningful symbol of the Holocaust of the Jewish people, shows to what lengths a system constructed on the principles of racial hatred and greed for power can go."

To this day, Auschwitz does not cease to admonish, reminding us that antisemitism is a great sin against humanity, that all racial hatred inevitably leads to the trampling of human dignity."

ON WORLD TROUBLES:

All individual and collective suffering (are) caused by the forces of nature and unleashed by man's free will — the wars, the gulags and the holocausts: the Holocaust of the Jews but also, for example, the holocaust of the black slaves from Africa."

Secularization and secularism promote... insensitivity and lead to a consumer mentality oriented toward the enjoyment of earthly goods. After the experience of concentration camps, gulags, bombings, not to mention natural catastrophes, can man possibly expect anything worse from this world, an even greater amount of humiliation and contempt? In a word, hell?

In countries where fundamentalist movements come to power, human rights and the principle of religious freedom are unfortunately interpreted in a very one-sided way — religious freedom comes to mean freedom to impose on all citizens the "true religion."

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS:

I think of the Warsaw uprising in 1944 — the desperate revolt of my contemporaries who sacrificed everything... I was a part of that generation and I must say that the heroism of my contemporaries helped me to define my personal vocation."

I remember that one day my father gave me a prayer book which contained the prayer to the Holy Spirit. He told me to recite it daily. So, from that day on, I have tried to.

ON ISLAM AND ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM:

"The religiosity of Muslims deserves respect. It is impossible not to admire, for example, their fidelity to prayer."

Nevertheless, concrete difficulties are not lacking. In countries where fundamentalist movements come to power, human rights and the principle of religious freedom are unfortunately interpreted in a very one-sided way — religious freedom comes to mean freedom to impose on all citizens the "true religion."

BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1994

High Court rejects Migdal, Clal petition

6.7% GDP growth expected in '94

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition by Migdal and Clal demanding they be allowed to purchase special bonds and set up pension funds.

The insurance companies filed the petition against Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy and their Shavit, supervisor of capital markets and insurance.

The petitioners asked the court to demand the respondents explain their refusal to give them the right to purchase special high-interest government bonds.

The bonds bear a 5.5 percent interest rate, well above rates on the capital market.

Migdal and Clal asked the Treasury to allow them to enter the pension fund field, which derives most of its profits from the funds' ability to purchase the special bonds.

The petitioners said the decision

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

not to allow them to purchase the special bonds prevents them from establishing new funds.

The Finance Ministry objected to the request, because the new funds would destroy existing pension funds, which have a huge actuarial deficit and therefore need the advantage of the special bonds to compete.

The ministry also said allowing the insurance companies to open pension funds which invest in the special bonds would cause a crisis on the capital market.

The ministry said existing provident funds and insurance plans, which can't offer such a high rate of return, would lose too many of their customers to the new funds.

The Knesset passed legislation reforming the pension fund law after Migdal and Clal submitted their petition to the High Court.

The law, which is valid until October 31, forbids new pension funds from purchasing special bonds.

Judges Zvi Tal and Tova Strasberg-Cohen said "it is in the public's interest to have a stable and secure pension infrastructure for retirement."

Tal and Strasberg-Cohen said damage to the freedom of occupation law is minor compared with the importance of guaranteeing a stable pension infrastructure.

They added that the law was passed for a limited time, during which new funds will not be established.

The judges said the government and Finance Ministry can use the time they have to formulate a new policy for pension funds.

Judge Dov Levin dissented, saying the new law is illegal, because it is against freedom of occupation laws.

THE Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow 6.7 percent this year, based on economic indicators from the first six to nine months of this year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The new estimates show more vigorous growth than was previously anticipated.

The Treasury predicted, earlier this year, that the GDP, which measures the total value of goods produced and services provided by the economy, would rise 6.2%.

Should economic growth this year match expectations, the economy will have expanded at nearly twice the rate of last year, when the GDP only increased by 3.4%.

According to Treasury economic adviser Tzipi Gal-Yam, the rapid economic expansion has been characterized by a sharp decline in unemployment, which is expected to hover between 7.5% and 8%, compared with 10% last year, and by significant increases in investment and consumption.

Fixed capital formation will rise 10.7% after having increased a

marginal 0.2% last year.

Capital investments in machines, equipment, vehicles, non-residential buildings and infrastructure, excluding airplanes and ships, will rise 14.2% following a 16.9% increase last year.

If investments in airplanes and ships are included, capital investments will rise 16%.

Plants' investments in machinery and equipment will grow 16%, in vehicles 11% and in non-residential buildings and infrastructure 14%.

Investments in residential construction will rise 1.4% after declining 27.1% last year as a result of the sharp cutback in public building.

Private housing construction is expected to go up between 10% and 11%, while public housing is expected to fall an additional 27%. Housing investments this year will be 50% higher than in 1989, before the large immigration wave.

Private consumption will jump 10%, a record 7% increase per

JOSE ROSENFELD

capita. Purchases of durable goods such as cars, furniture and appliances, will rise 10% per capita after dropping 2% last year.

Non-durable goods purchases will increase 7% per capita after rising by 6% last year.

In particular, residents' spending abroad will jump 14% per capita. Consumers' food expenditures will rise 5%, while their spending on health, education and entertainment services will increase 7%.

By contrast, current expenditures on house maintenance, gasoline and electricity will only rise between 1% and 2%.

Public consumption will rise 5.5% after increasing 1.2% last year.

Gal-Yam said the sharp increase in investments and consumption reflect the private sector's optimism, as both businesses and individuals expect their income to grow.

The business product, which measures private sector activity, is

expected to expand 7.7%, after growing only by 3.5% last year. Industrial production will rise 7.6%, after increasing 6.8% last year.

Wages will go up by 2% after being flat last year due to a sharp wage increase of between 7% and 8% in the public sector, while wages in the business sector will remain unchanged.

The price of local and imported goods and services will rise 11.6%, compared with 10.9% last year. Local product prices will jump 13.1%, which will be moderated by the lower import price rise of 7.1%.

Prices of consumer goods and services will increase 12%.

The trade gap is expected to climb nearly 40% to \$8.3 billion, compared to \$6b. last year. Imports will rise 12.2%, while exports will increase a more moderate 7.8%.

The significant expansion of imports is expected to widen the current account deficit 243% to \$3.4b, compared with \$1.4b. last year.

Rotem may build Gulf plant

ROTEM-Import general manager Akiva Moses has been negotiating with a Gulf state to establish a plant there. The decision to pursue the deal follows the success of the company's fertilizer sales in the Gulf, particularly to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Rotem's Gulf sales were revealed by Moses during a visit to the Negev plant yesterday by President Ezer Weizman. Moses told him that, due to a shrinking world market in fertilizers, the management decided to pursue new markets.

Initial Gulf sales in the millions of dollars are expected to grow to tens of millions, making a plant there feasible.

Amir Rozenblit

Tel Aviv DA appeals sentence given to businessmen convicted of tax evasion

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office has appealed the sentence given to two local businessmen convicted of tax evasion.

Civil engineers Yitzhak Hoffman and Yisrael Meirovitz were sentenced to two years in prison, a one-year suspended sentence and a NIS 150,000 fine following their conviction in August.

Hoffman and Meirovitz earlier appealed their sentence, claiming it was unduly harsh. At the time of the investigation, they paid the tax authority the NIS 200,000 they owed.

Avraham Porat, their account-

ant, also appealed his sentence of 7.5 months and NIS 40,000 fine. Porat said most of the crimes, mainly falsification of tax receipts in the years between 1984-1987, were committed by his predecessor.

After trading had closed Tuesday, Hoffman-Meirovitz (the company in which the two are principal shareholders) announced to the TASE that Hoffman and Meirovitz, had signed an agreement to sell all their holdings, or 60 percent of the company, for \$3.78 million.

The partners said the sum would be paid in its skeletal equivalent on the date of the sale.

In September, the shareholder-owners announced the signing of a letter of understanding with a foreign company wishing to purchase their holdings should legal means be discovered to effect the sale.

However, according to a company prospectus of December 1, 1993, shares belonging to the partner-owners cannot be sold.

Hoffman and Meirovitz said

they intend to appeal to the TASE to release them from this obligation.

Tuesday's announcement said the transfer of ownership would be executed following approval of the TASE board of directors to delimit the shares.

The TASE said it will decide whether to respond to the appeal, after it is officially filed.

Should the sale take place, Hoffman and Meirovitz will no longer hold any ordinary shares in the company and the purchaser will become principal interest-holder in it.

Dangerous levels of lead content found in imported ceramic dishes from Japan, China

MARTHA MEISELS

DANGEROUS levels of lead content have been found in ceramic dishes imported from China and Japan, according to test results released yesterday by the Israel Consumer Council.

In some cases, the amounts of lead measured thousands of percentages above levels permitted in food utensils by the Israel Standards Institution.

No deviations from the standard were found in dishes made in Israel (by Na'aman Porcelain) or imported from Romania.

"Eating and drinking from vessels containing lead can cause a buildup of lead in the body, resulting in long-term poisoning," said Dr. Matt Lifshitz, director of Soroka Hospital's Toxicology Department in Beer-Sheva. "Babies and children can suffer developmental defects, while the whole population... can suffer dysfunction in various organs."

Both lead and another problematic metal, cadmium, exist in many of the glazes used on ceramic dishes. Proper manufacturing practices, which include firing at high temperatures, destroy these dangerous metals, the council said.

Lead which remains in the glaze is most likely to enter foods and beverages during the cooking process, or when the vessels hold acidic substances.

The most extreme example found in the survey was a small cake plate made in China which tested at 830 milligrams of lead contamination per liter of testing liquid, whereas the standard permits a maximum of five milligrams, the council reported.

The Tel Aviv District Office of the Industry and Trade Ministry has promised the Consumer Council to confiscate or freeze the sale of those dishes found to exceed the standard for lead.

PA plans investment incentives

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Authority has published details of draft investment regulations, including tax incentives, special development areas, and guarantees to private investors against nationalization.

Investors in projects worth \$100,000 with 10 workers would get a two-year tax break. Investors in projects worth \$150,000 and employing 25 workers would get a three-year tax break, while those investing \$500,000 would earn a five-year tax break.

Disputes between investors and the Palestinian Authority will be dealt with in Palestinian courts.

"This law prevents the national-

ization or confiscation of any investment in Palestine," according to the 11-article draft regulations, published in Jerusalem's Arabic press on Tuesday.

The Gaza Strip, Jenin, and the Jordan Valley have been declared first priority development areas.

A quasi-governmental, 13-member agency called the Palestinian National Council for the Encouragement of Investment will be headed by Economics Minister Ahmed Qreia.

Three members will be appointed directly by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and the others by PA ministries, the papers reported.

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Tsur: Trade ties discussed with Gulf states

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Agriculture Ministry has made contact with representatives from the Gulf states in an attempt to establish trade relations, minister Ya'acov Tsur said at a press conference yesterday.

(מסד) TARGET FUND
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 18.10.94
Purchase Price: 137.23
Redemption Price: 134.97

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the possibility to transport produce by land.

Meanwhile, Zvi Alon, deputy director general for foreign trade at the ministry, left for Brussels yesterday to receive the European Community's response to Israel's demands for increased agricultural exports. Tsur said he expects the EC to reject the request.

"The ministry will demand that Israel not sign the trade agreement with the EC if the community rejects our demands," Tsur said. "The EC has the most to lose, since the current trade balance is significantly in favor of the EC."

Tsur said Israel has agreed to open its market to the import of fruit and vegetables if the EC is prepared to give Israeli agricultural products more favored status.

The ministry demands the EC reduce custom duties and cancel quotas on agricultural products, especially flowers, citrus and spices. Tsur said Israel should be given preferential treatment following the agricultural trade agreement reached with the Palestinians.

The National Physical Laboratory of Israel, Ministry of Industry and Trade, invites bids for the following laboratory equipment:

- 1) Digital Multimeter, 8.5 digit, accuracy 25 ppm., voltage range 10mV - 1000 volts.
- 2) Science, up to 200 p.p.s., accuracy 10 micrograms.
- 3) Primary Standard Pyrolytic, with a precision over one year of 20.1%.
- 4) Standard Pyrolytic, with a precision over one year of 22%.
- 5) A system for continuous testing of perfume load (weight/volume).
- 6) Equipment for continuous testing of perfume gases, with sensitivity in the range of ppm.
- 7) Equipment for Gas Flow by wet method, accuracy 1%.
- 8) DC - 1GHz single shot.
- 9) DC voltage reference, stability 0.2 ppm/dec. C.
- 10) Time interval counter, Time resolution of 10 ns, frequency up to 100 MHz, complying with IEEE 488.
- 11) A system for the measurement of trace metals in the sub-ppb range, by Flow Injection Atomic Spectroscopy.
- 12) An add-on to Perkin-Elmer Model 5000, Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy.
- 13) A microwave sample preparation system for chemical analysis.
- 14) Computerized polarograph for striping voltammetry.

For additional information, please call the National Physical Laboratory, Tel. 02-681859, or Fax: 02-520797.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked with the tender number. The envelope should be inserted into the bid box in our main office, room 22, 30 Agmon St., Jerusalem, by November 6, 1994.

The office may negotiate with bidders who submit bids. The office is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other bid.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Arkia sets fares for flights to Jordan: No planes are in the air yet, but Arkia has set the fares for flights from Tel Aviv's Sde Dov Airport to Amman and Akaba. The Tel Aviv-Amman flight, which the company says will take 40 minutes, is to cost NIS 160, while the Akaba run, which takes 55 minutes, is to be NIS 206. The company said its flights are to be in Dash 7 planes, with room for 54 passengers.

Rijet-Sunfrost-Tivoli consortium to market Haagen Daz: A consortium made up of Rijet Investments, Sunfrost and Tivoli has received the exclusive license to market US Haagen Daz ice cream here. Rijet has a 38 percent share in the group, Sunfrost a 26% stake, Tivoli a 26% share and Ian Fisher, a private investor, the remaining 10%. The chain is owned by the UK-based Grand Metropolitan, which is traded on the London Stock Exchange. In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Rijet said it will invest \$1.5m. in Haagen Daz.

Capital readies for biotechnology conference: The International Cooperation for Development of Biotechnology Conference will be held in Jerusalem from October 30 to November 3. The gathering, the first of its kind, will host 600 sessions, with some 60 Israeli companies and a similar number of international biotech concerns from 25 countries taking part. Conference organizers, which include the Office of the Chief Scientist, hope to encourage joint ventures and multi-national investment in Israeli biotech companies.

Tadrian Information Systems developed new software system: Tadrian Information Systems has developed a software system for planning, inspection, and organization of long-range business strategies. The system, developed using Microsoft Access in a Windows environment, was originally developed in Hebrew for internal use by the Tadrian group. Several leading local firms have expressed interest in an off-the-shelf version of the product, which will be made available in early 1995.

Pollak GM sentenced for releasing misleading information: The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday sentenced H.G. Pollak general manager Michael Pollak to five months of community service, a one-year suspended sentence and a NIS 30,000 fine for releasing misleading information to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The information concerned a product developed by the firm which destroys the AIDS virus when used during sexual contact. The TASE said the company hid the fact that the Health Ministry had forbidden marketing and distribution of the product.

WORLD BRIEFS

Dollar falls after US-Japan trade gap grows: The dollar fell against the Japanese yen, bearing down on its post-World War II low, after a government report showed the American trade gap with Japan widened to its highest level in a year. The US Commerce Department report showed that the bilateral trade deficit with Japan grew 2.4 percent to \$5.8 billion during August. In late New York trading, the dollar was quoted at 97.25 yen, down from 97.81 late Tuesday.

Record US exports shrink trade gap in August: Record exports cut the nation's trade deficit in August, but the gains were uneven as the US lost ground to China and Japan, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. A growing European appetite for American goods helped shrink the overall trade gap by 12.9 percent to \$9.74 billion from July.

Former top BCCI executive gets 11-year prison term: Former top BCCI executive Swaleh Naqvi was sentenced yesterday to more than 11 years in prison for his criminal role in Bank of Credit and Commerce International scandal. Naqvi in July pleaded guilty to three criminal charges of fraud and conspiracy. He admitted he engaged with other BCCI executives in a racketeering conspiracy to secretly control several US banks.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (18.10.94)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.250	4.500	4.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.250	4.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.800	3.925	4.050
Yen (¥10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.10.94)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	Bank	Bank	Bank
US dollar	3.250	3.400	3.414
German mark	2.950	3.025	3.038
Pound sterling	2.875	2.925	2.938
French franc	0.0525	0.0511	0.051
Japanese yen (¥100)	3.075	3.125	3.138
Dutch guilder	1.745	1.807	1.818
Swiss franc	2.412	2.448	2.457
Swedish krona	0.416	0.421	0.423
Norwegian krona	0.491	0.498	0.499
Denmark krone	0.510	0.517	0.518
Finnish mark	0.062	0.063	0.063
Canadian dollar	2.210	2.243	2.252
Australian dollar	2.000	2.019	2.026
S. African rand	0.030	0.030	0.030
Belgian franc (F10)	0.0715	0.0722	0.072
Austrian schilling (S10)	2.840	2.867	2.875
Italian lire (L100)	1.585	1.595	1.598
Japanese yen (¥100)	—	—	—
Israeli shekel	—	—	—
Israeli pound	3.801	3.850	3.857
Israeli new shekel	4.727	4.804	4.811
Spanish peseta (100)	2.405	2.435	2.441

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEHNA

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0180	-0.10%
Sterling	NIS 4.8827	+0.26%
Mark	NIS 2.0098	-0.01%

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Value	Change
DJ Industrial	2630.04	+18.6
DJ Transport	1882.5	+12.8
DJ Utility	1117.7	+1.2
NYSE Composite	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Midcap	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Smallcap	2630.04	+18.6
S&P 500	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Midcap	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Smallcap	2630.04	+18.6

Other stock market indexes

Index	Value	Change
NYSE 100	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Midcap	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Smallcap	2630.04	+18.6
S&P 500	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Midcap	2630.04	+18.6
NYSE Smallcap	2630.04	+18.6

Israeli stocks in NY

Stock	Price	Change
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05
Anglo	1.15	+0.05

INTERNET MONEY

Dollar crossrates (US)

Currency	Rate	Change
British	1.50	+0.01
French	1.50	+0.01
German	1.50	+0.01
Italian	1.50	+0.01
Japanese	1.50	+0.01
Swiss	1.50	+0.01
Canadian	1.50	+0.01
Australian	1.50	+0.01
New Zealand	1.50	+0.01
South African	1.50	+0.01

Libor rates

Rate	Value	Change
3 months	5.50%	+0.01%
6 months	5.50%	+0.01%
9 months	5.50%	+0.01%
12 months	5.50%	+0.01%
15 months	5.50%	+0.01%
18 months	5.50%	+0.01%
21 months	5.50%	+0.01%
24 months	5.50%	+0.01%

Foreign financial data courtesy of

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INTERNET COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05
Cocoa	1.50	+0.05

London commodities

Spot market metals (US)

New York metal futures

London metal futures

Spot market metals (US)

New York metal futures

London metal futures

Spot market metals (US)

New York metal futures

London metal futures

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

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Trade & Services

Property, Building & Agriculture

Oil Exploration

PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services

Property, Building & Agriculture

Oil Exploration

PARALLEL LIST

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PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services

Property, Building & Agriculture

Oil Exploration

Tel Aviv bombing weakens market

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO

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Two-Sided Index

Showalter top AL manager

NEW YORK (AP) — Buck Showalter, who brought calm to a New York Yankees club often beset by controversy, was the overwhelming choice Tuesday for American League manager of the year.

Showalter became the first Yankees manager to win the award, created in 1983, after leading New York to the best record in the league. The Yankees were 70-43 and in position for their first playoff spot since 1981 when the players' strike stopped the season August 12.

Showalter, 38, is the youngest manager in the majors. He also is the first manager to survive three straight years since George Steinbrenner bought the team before the 1973 season. Steinbrenner has changed managers 19 times overall.

"In my profession, the reward for a job well done is the opportunity to do more," Showalter said at Yankee Stadium after the award was announced. "I just hope I have the opportunity to take us to where we'd have liked to have finished this year."

Showalter received 24 of 28 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America. He also got four second-place votes and finished with 132 points.

Mike Hargrove, who had Cleve-

land in contention for its first post-season slot since 1954, got the other four first-place votes and finished with 86 points. Chicago's Gene Lamont, who narrowly beat Showalter for the award last season, was third with 17 and Oakland's Tony La Russa was fourth with 10.

Felipe Alou, who guided Montreal to a 74-40 record, won the National League manager of the year award Monday.

The BBWAA was scheduled to announce the AL rookie of the year yesterday.

Under Showalter, the disputes between players, management and Steinbrenner that frequently distracted the Yankees in the past seemed to disappear. He managed to settle problems before they reached the press or the owner.

Showalter, who has spent 18 years in the Yankees system as a player, coach and manager, has guided the team to steady improvement. His career record is 234-203, and his contract runs through 1995.

When Yankees manager Stump Merrill was fired after the 1991 season, Showalter was let go as third base coach. He interviewed for the vacant Seattle Mariners managing job, then was surprised when Yankees general manager Gene Michael called a few weeks later to offer the managing job.

Showalter inherited a team that had gone 71-91, its third straight losing season. In his first year, during which Steinbrenner was suspended from baseball, Showalter went 76-86. The Yankees were 88-74 in 1993. Steinbrenner's first year back.

This year, the Yankees moved into first place on May 9. They increased their lead in the AL East to 10 games and led Baltimore by 6½ games — the biggest edge in the majors — when the strike began.

Mediator set to resume talks After a 5½-week break, owners and players resumed negotiations yesterday in a session that is expected to lay down bargaining ground rules under the federal government's new mediator.

The 11 members of management's bargaining group met Tuesday with head negotiator Richard Ravitch. Union head Donald Fehr said several players planned to attend yesterday's bargaining session, which was scheduled to take place in Washington under the supervision of mediator WJ Usery.

Fehr wasn't predicting any breakthroughs. "I think tomorrow is just ground rules," he said. "It's preliminary."

Players and owners have met formally just three times since the strike began and not at all since September 9, five days before owners canceled the World Series for the first time since 1904.

"It is Mr. Usery's meeting," Ravitch said. "Nobody knows at this point what's going to happen."

Man Utd draws with Barcelona

MANCHESTER (Reuters) — Manchester United and Barcelona drew 2-2 in a thrilling European Champions League Group A match yesterday which both teams could have won, although a defeat for either one of them would have been an injustice.

United, never beaten at home in 52 previous European matches stretching back to 1956, saved its record with a brilliantly-taken individual goal by Lee Sharpe 10 minutes from time.

That goal — scored with a side-footed flick on the run with his trailing leg — leveled the scores after Brazilian Romario (34th) and Jose Maria Bakero (50th) had put Barcelona in the driving seat.

United struck first blood when Mark Hughes scored against his old team with a powerful 18th-minute header after a pin-point cross from Sharpe, playing on the wing in place of the injured Ryan Giggs.

The result leaves United on top of the group with four points from three games, followed by IFK Gothenburg, 1-0 winners over Galatasaray of Turkey also on four but second on goal difference. Barcelona has three points and the Turkish side one.

A relieved United manager Alex Ferguson, who gambled with his selection by leaving out his skipper and commanding center-back Steve Bruce said afterwards: "It was a fabulous game — a great display of positive football from both teams. We gave away two bad goals but I was delighted with the way we kept coming forward."

The teams met again in Barcelona on November 2 but United will be without defender David May, who picked up his second yellow card of the competition, while Barcelona will be without Miguel Nadal, also booked for the second time in the competition. Barcelona also had Abelardo Fernandez booked.

United, which was also without the suspended Eric Cantona, was relieved that UEFA's restrictions on overseas players meant that Romanian star Gheorghe Hagi was left out of Johann Cruyff's line-up with Dutchman Ronald Koeman their third foreigner.

But it was United who settled first with Sharp outpacing Josep Guardiola on one flank and Andrei Kanchelskis getting the better of Abelardo on the other.

United dominated the opening



CLOSE QUARTERS — Viktor Anopko (foreground) of Moscow's Spartak fights for the ball with Bayern Munich's Alexander Zickler in a European Champions' League Group B game (Reuters)

stages and deserved to go ahead when Hughes headed home powerfully past goalkeeper Carlos Busquets for the opening goal.

Barcelona had not won away against a British club in 34 years and 15 attempts, but the pressure was on them to end that dismal record after losing to Gothenburg in their last Champions League game.

They gradually came back into the game and Romario pulled them level after a break involving Koeman and Bakero. Romario outpaced the United defense and shot the ball through goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's legs for the equalizer.

Bakero, who made time and space for himself despite being surrounded by four United de-

fenders, blasted Barcelona ahead five minutes after the break and both sides had plenty of chances to score before Sharpe's equalizer.

The goal was created by Paul Ince, captain in Bruce's absence, who set the move up with a tackle and lunging pass to release Roy Keane down the right.

He reached the byline, skidded a low cross in front of Busquets and his disorganized defense for Sharpe at the back post, letting the ball skip past his left foot and hooking it home off his right ankle.

United almost snatched victory in the last minute through teenage substitute Paul Scholes, who robbed Guardiola but chipped his effort just inches over the stranded goalkeeper and the bar.

Spartak Moscow 1, Bayern Munich 1. A last-minute equalizer from defender Marcus Babel saved visiting Bayern Munich from defeat in a 1-1 draw with Spartak Moscow in a Group B clash yesterday.

Babel rose at a free kick to head the ball in at the right-hand post in the 90th minute and gave the German visitors a deserved point after Nikolai Pisarev had put the Russians ahead against the run of play in the 78th minute.

Bayern took the game to Spartak who had lost its opening two games of the group. The Germans deserved at least a point after their best performance in the Champions' League.

Gothenburg 1, Galatasaray 0. Sweden's IFK Gothenburg was rewarded for relentless pressure with a late winner against Turkey's Galatasaray in a Group A match yesterday.

The Turkish visitors, seemingly dazed by near-freezing temperatures, were pinned in their own half for the entire match, waking up for a half-hearted rally only after Magnus Eidevall scored with a 76th-minute header.

Gothenburg could have scored a handful of goals but was thwarted by its own poor finishing and desperate Turkish tackling.

With time running out, Gothenburg substitute Erik Wahlstedt played a deft cross with almost his first kick of the match to find Erlingmark, who rose high to head the ball into the bottom left-hand corner of the net, out of the reach of goalkeeper Gintars Stauce.

European Champions' League

Group A: Manchester United (England) 2, Barcelona (Spain) 2 (half-time 1-1). Scores: Manchester United — Mark Hughes (18), Lee Sharpe (80); Barcelona — Romario (34), Jose Maria Bakero (49). Attendance: 45,000.

Group B: Spartak Moscow (Russia) 1, Bayern Munich (Germany) 1 (half-time 0-0). Scores: Spartak — Nikolai Pisarev (78 minute); Bayern — Marcus Babel (90). In Kiev: Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 1, Paris St Germain (France) 1 (1-1). Scores: Dynamo Kiev — Viktor Lazarev (33, penalty); Paris St Germain — Vincent Guerin (26), George Weah (76). Attendance: 90,000.

Group C: Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 2, Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 1 (1-0). Scores: Borussia Dortmund — Claudio Caniggia (44, penalty), Jost Pion (61); Steaua — Danil Militaru (90). Attendance: 20,000.

Group D: Lazio (Italy) 1, Anderlecht (Belgium) 1 (1-0). Scores: Lazio — Nenad Priljic (34th), Darko Borovcic (86); Anderlecht — Josip Weber (88). Attendance: 18,200.

Group E: Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 0, Arsenal (England) 0. Attendance: 38,000.

Group F: Arsenal (England) 0, AC Milan (Italy) 0. Attendance: 30,000.

NBA 'Seine-sational' in Paris

PARIS (AP) — The game had a little of everything — a lot of points, flamboyant dunks, 3-point shots, 3-point fouls, air balls, illegal defenses, technical fouls and even warrior newcomer Manute Bol scoring.

The NBA kicked off a record 11 preseason games outside the US with Tuesday night's game in the French capital. The Golden State Warriors beat the Charlotte Hornets 132-116, as Chris Mullin, a member of the Olympic Dream Team, scored 14 of his 25 points in the second quarter to break the game open.

The game delighted the capacity crowd of 15,324 at the Bercy Sports Arena. Today, the Warriors will face Juventus Badaloni in the Olympic arena in Barcelona where the original Dream Team won the gold medal at the 1992 Summer Games. Charlotte visits defending Italian league champion Buckler Bologna tomorrow.

It was the first preseason win for Golden State in three games. Charlotte is now 0-2. Latrell Sprewell helped the Warriors with 24 points.

Robert Parish, Darrin Hancock and Michael Adams each had 16 for Charlotte.

One of the biggest cheers came when 7-foot-7

center Bol scored. The Sudanese native, 32, had seven rebounds in his 13 minutes for Golden State, who signed him to a one-year contract.

The Warriors traded him to Philadelphia in 1990 for a 1991 first-round pick. After three years with the 76ers, Bol played for Miami last season.

Robinson and Bucks millions apart The Milwaukee Bucks took the unusual step Tuesday of going public with their contract offer — \$60 million guaranteed over nine years — to top draft pick Glenn Robinson.

They went even further by confirming exactly what Robinson's asking for: \$100m over 13 years. That's four years and \$40m more than the Bucks are willing to pay, coach and general manager Mike Dunleavy said in a news conference billed as a chance to set the record straight for fans.

"I hope at some point sanity will come into play," Dunleavy said.

Robinson, the nation's leading scorer with Purdue last season, has missed the first two weeks of training camp. US Senator Herb Kohl, D-Wis., who owns the franchise, has said he won't agree to a \$100m contract.

Bucks vice president John Steinmiller said the Bucks are continuing negotiations and won't trade their rights to Robinson. "There's a greater chance of Madonna starting at point guard opening night than of a trade for Glenn Robinson," he said.

Sundelson sets nat'l golf mark

STEVE WEIL

BARRY Sundelson from South Africa set a new national record yesterday by shooting a 69 in the second round of the Israel Golf Open at Caesarea.

Ireland's Eddie Power also broke par with a 72 to stay in second place, five shots behind. Israel's Neil Shochat shot a 78 to remain in third place.

Leading the women is Eileen Rose Power with 76. Power enjoys a 10-shot lead over Karen Sheffrin from Great Britain. The Netherlands' Pans Cliteur lies in third, a further eight shots back.

Atherton keeps his cool with Aussie press

PERTH (Reuters) — England captain Mike Atherton presented an impeccable dead bat to an opening salvo from Australian journalists yesterday shortly after his team's 19-hour flight from London to Perth.

After a couple of gentle opening questions at an airport news conference, Atherton was asked about comments he was alleged to have made after last year's Ashes series.

Atherton was questioned in particular about remarks attributed to him saying Australian all-rounder Steve Waugh spent the entire series abusing the England batsmen although "he was the one bloke on either side who was wailing himself against the quick bowlers."

In reply Atherton said: "Never believe what you read in the papers."

The England skipper was also asked about the "two Aussies" in the 16-man squad — a reference to Australian-born Martin McCague and Craig White.

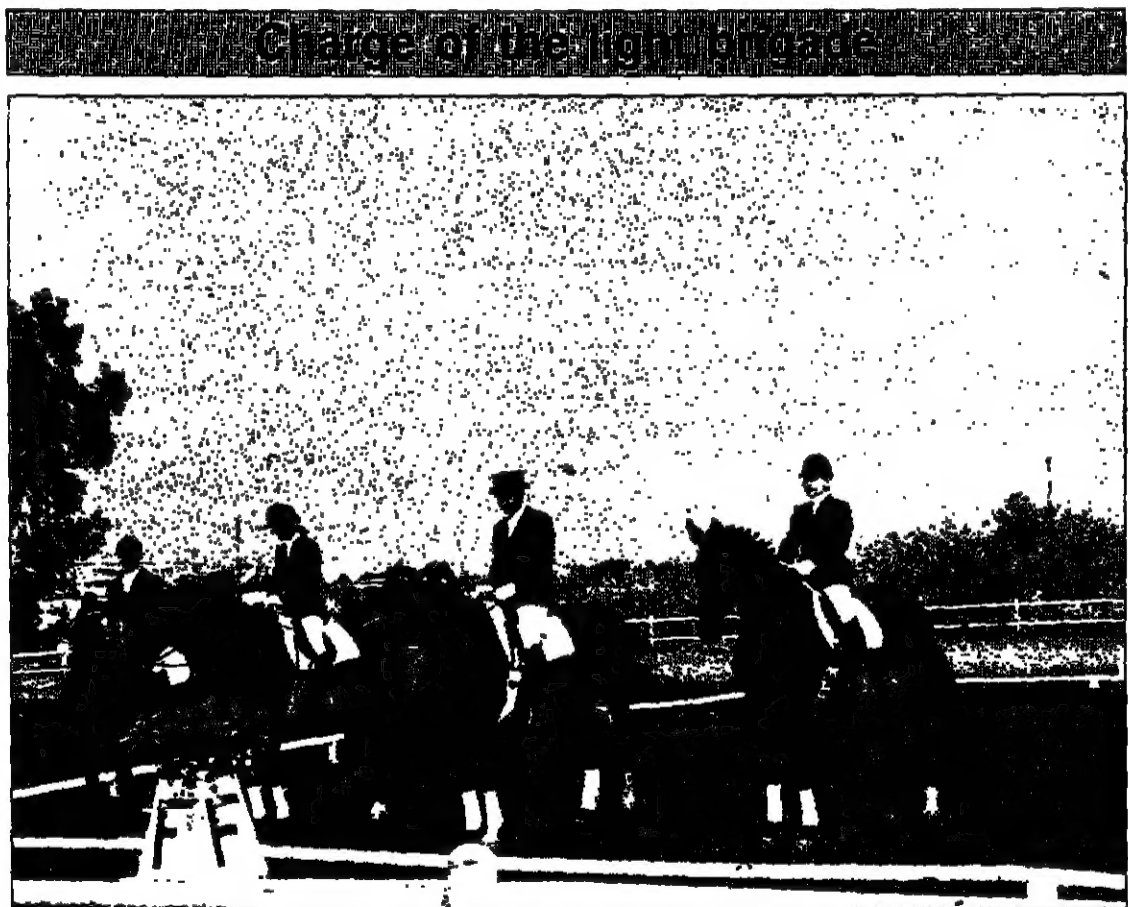
"We've got a squad of 16, all of whom want to play for England and all of whom are qualified to play for England," Atherton replied.

15th Hapoel Games set for June '95

THE 15th Hapoel Games will be held June 11-15 1995, it was announced yesterday.

Competition will be held in 23 different sports, 16 of which will include international participants.

The organizers contend that the games, whose budget is \$13.3 million, will give local athletes a last chance to compete in an international event before attempting to qualify for the 1996 Olympic Games.



Four Israeli equestrians go through their paces in preparation for the Samsung International Dressage Competition at the Country Club Stables in Ramat Hasharon on Saturday. Eight local riders will compete in the presence of two international judges from the International Equestrian Federation. Israel is in a group with Taipei, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong and Zambia. Israel has won individual honors from 1991-93 and the team competition in 1991 and 1993.

NHL rejects mediator

INGLEWOOD (AP) — The NHL on Tuesday rejected the idea of using a mediator to end its lockout and all but abandoned the possibility of playing an entire 84-game season.

The league hasn't officially canceled any games, but Brian Burke, the league's director of hockey operations, said a policy regarding ticket refunds could be announced as soon as today.

The lockout was in its 19th day Tuesday, with 105 games lost so far. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and union head Bob Goodenow haven't spoken since last Tuesday, when the owners rejected the players' latest proposal. Burke said no new negotiations are planned.

"I'm not sure that the lull isn't good right now, in terms of people cooling off and maybe reassessing where they are," Burke said. "I think we understand each other. We just can't agree on a damn thing."

With neither side talking to the other, Burke offered his assessment of where the situation is headed.

"I would guess that you're looking now at the neutron bomb of labor law in the US, the work stoppage," he said. "Presumably, a work stoppage is going to have

immediate and somewhat dramatic financial effects on both sides.

"Hopefully that's the pressure that begins to be brought to bear on both sides, the ticket refunds start to go out, the corporate contracts with the teams start to be affected and players miss paychecks."

"They want to grab control today for tomorrow's revenues," said Mary McCoskey of the Los Angeles Kings, who has abandoned his plans to play for Las Vegas of the International Hockey League. "We want the owners to make money, but just don't put us in shackles to do it."

Meanwhile, several NHL players have found new work since the International Ice Hockey Federation, the sport's international governing body, reversed its ban on NHL players competing in Europe.

Jari Kurri of the Kings and Teemu Selanne of Winnipeg are in Helsinki preparing for their debuts today with Jokerit of the Finnish League. Esa Tikkanen of St. Louis and Christian Ruutu of Chicago will be in the lineup for another Helsinki team, IFK, when it faces Jokerit.

Also, Boston Bruins forward Jose Stumpel has returned to the Cologne Sharks of the German Ice Hockey League.

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Former Syrian chief rabbi Avraham Hamra kisses the Western Wall on his first morning in Jerusalem yesterday. "This should be the happiest day of my life," Hamra said, "but instead we have suffered this tremendous tragedy in Tel Aviv." Hamra said the remains of Eli Cohen, the Israeli spy executed in Damascus in 1965, will probably be brought here when there is peace with Syria. He told Cohen's widow, Nadia, that the Jewish community in Damascus has no idea where her husband is buried, and the subject has never been brought up in meetings with Syrian authorities. Nadia Cohen said she understands the community's reticence to discuss the matter in Syria. Meanwhile, President Ezer Weizman said at a welcoming ceremony for the rabbi at Beit Hanassi last night that he will extend every assistance possible to make the absorption of the Syrian Jews go smoothly. (Text: Batsheva Tsor; photo: Isaac Harni)

Soldier fakes own stabbing in downtown Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

A SOLDIER stabbed and lightly wounded himself in Jerusalem yesterday and then told police he was attacked by an Arab terrorist.

A police spokesman said soldier Ofer Yagdar lied for "personal reasons," declining to elaborate. The soldier was turned over to the Military Police, the spokesman said.

At first, police believed the soldier's story. A massive search, aided by a helicopter, was launched for the "terrorist."

Three Arab men fitting a description given by the soldier were arrested immediately after the morning incident just off King George Street.

The "attack" also made the evening news.

But late last night, the soldier admitted lying about being attacked, after being pressed by interrogators suspicious of his story, the spokesman said.

The three Arabs detained in the morning were released, the spokesman added.

The attack was alleged to have occurred just an hour after the Tel Aviv bus bombing. Jerusalem police, however, took no special steps in reaction to the reported attack, according to Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit.

Defense maintains emissary rules didn't apply to Dinitz

YESTERDAY'S session of the trial of Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz on fraud charges featured the cross-examination of Ya'acov Nitzan, his senior adviser, who had been declared a hostile prosecution witness.

Defense attorney Uri Wagman concentrated on the question of whether the rules that applied to agency emissaries abroad also applied to Dinitz.

He noted that Nitzan had previously testified that there was no document which specifically said that these rules did not apply to the chairman.

Wagman then introduced into evidence several documents, which he said showed that these rules did not apply to Dinitz.

Among them was a letter from the late Arye Dinitz, Dinitz's pre-

decessor, to the agency comptroller in which he stated that the rules applying to emissaries did not apply to him. Wagman said that the then comptroller had accepted this.

He also produced a document written by senior agency official Eliezer Sheffer, which said that these rules did not apply to the chairman and the director-general.

In response, prosecutor Shimon Dolan said that most of the documents Wagman cited were letters that had no official standing.

He added that several of them were written after the investigation into Dinitz had begun. (Hut)



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Absence of TV cameras for Knesset debate raises hackles on right

LIAT COLLINS

THE special Knesset discussion on yesterday's terror attack was nearly postponed by several hours because Knesset members, mainly from the political right, objected to it being held when Israel Television's Channel 3 was not broadcasting from the plenum.

Likud MK Ron Nahman was the first to raise the subject, demanding to know why the station had temporarily stopped Knesset broadcasts in the morning.

Communications Minister Shlomo Aloni immediately explained that since Channel 1 serves Educational Television in the morning, and ETV had not agreed to give up its air time, ETV was forced to use Channel 3 to broadcast the first news and coverage of the bombing.

"Usually after negotiations, we are able to get the air time from ETV.

This time, apparently, it didn't work out," Aloni said. ETV is the responsibility of the Education Ministry, not the Communications Ministry.

Likud MK Michael Eitan condemned the Israel Broadcasting Authority for taking the decision to stop the Knesset broadcasts without the prior permission of the Knesset Speaker. Meanwhile, coalition MKs shouted that there were enough journalists and photographers to justify going on with the discussions without Channel 3.

"There's a definite possibility that [IBA director general] Mordechai Kirschenbaum will replace the Knesset speaker," said Meretz MK Haim Oron. "I am completely opposed to

the idea that Knesset work schedules will be determined by broadcasting schedules. There were decisions taken in several Knesset committees that there would be no direct influence of broadcasts on Knesset schedules.

"I know that what I'm saying is slightly naive, but in these times it's only possible to survive with some naivety, otherwise we will turn the Knesset into a television studio and woe onto us," Oron said.

"I ask the Speaker to carry on [with the discussions] and those Knesset members that are filmed will be filmed and for those that are not filmed, we will arrange a special photo session next week on Channel 3."

"I have a request. Don't use this discussion for these sorts of comments," replied Speaker Shevah Weiss. "What can we do? We are 120 individuals here."

UK may buy Popeye missiles

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain, which lifted an arms embargo against Israel last May, is considering buying an Israeli air-to-ground missile for its air force, Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said yesterday.

Rifkind, who begins a four-day visit today, told reporters a decision on the Popeye missile will depend on "operational and commercial criteria, but not on political criteria."

Rafael, which makes the Popeye, will face competition from other arms makers, Rifkind said. But he added: "I have no doubt Popeye will be one of those we will give serious consideration to."

Rifkind's visit, the first by a British defense minister, follows a recent visit to Britain by Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Ehud Barak.

He will meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, as well as Barak.

SLA shelling reportedly kills 2 women

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

TWO Lebanese women were killed by retaliatory shelling from South Lebanese Army gunners yesterday, according to news agency reports.

The reports said SLA troops also blew up a house near Mansour village, south of Tyre, and left behind messages calling on local residents not to cooperate with Hizbullah.

According to the reports, the SLA said the isolated house had been used by members of the Islamic Resistance, the fighting arm of Hizbullah, as a base for launching attacks against IDF and SLA targets in the security zone.

The shelling by SLA gunners followed an abortive bomb attack against an SLA patrol near the Christian township Jezzine, north of the zone.

According to one version, the device exploded but without causing injury or damage. Another version said the troops spotted the roadside bomb and safely destroyed the charge.

The news agency reports said SLA gunners opened fire on suspected terrorist targets east of Sidon after the attack. The reports said two women picking olives in nearby Berti village were killed in the shelling.

UN sources reported an unusually high number of flights by IAF warplanes over parts of Lebanon yesterday immediately after the bus attack in Tel Aviv.

Sneh denies wanting to oust D-G Shani

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry yesterday denied reports that Minister Ephraim Sneh wants to replace his director-general, Prof. Mordechai Shani.

"Not only doesn't he want him to leave, but the minister enjoys working with him and is interested in his continuing," said ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai.

Ben-Hai said that a few weeks ago, Sneh asked Shani - on leave from Sheba Hospital - to extend his contract, due to expire in February. Shani has not yet given Sneh his answer.

Sources at Sheba and inside the ministry say that Shani will leave in February and again run the Tel Hashomer hospital. They also maintain that Sneh wants his own man, rather than the director-general inherited from his predecessor, Haim Ramon.



Police lead a suspected drug dealer from his home. (Scoop 80)

13 heroin dealers busted in capital

BILL HUTMAN

THIRTEEN heroin dealers were arrested during a pre-dawn sweep by police in eastern Jerusalem yesterday, culminating a three-month undercover operation.

Seven police teams surprised the suspects, most found sleeping at their homes in various Arab neighborhoods, between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m.

"This should show those who say we are not enforcing the law in east-

ern Jerusalem they don't know what they're talking about," said Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit, who personally oversaw the operation.

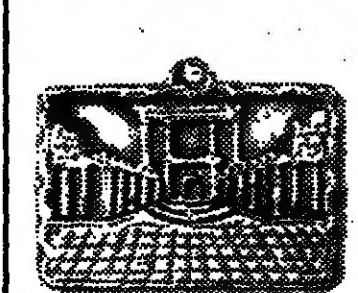
Amit said there were strong cases against all the suspects, based largely on evidence gathered by a former criminal turned undercover agent.

In several instances, the agent wore a wire so he could tape the conversations of the suspected drug dealers while they were in action.

Two of the suspects police hoped to arrest were not located, but police believe they will be detained soon.

The suspects are scheduled to be remanded today in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

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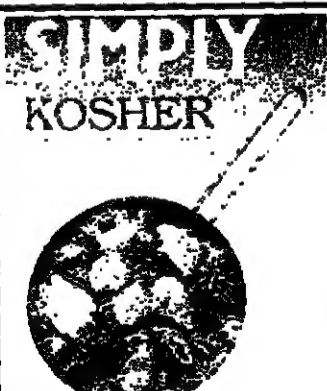
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